

The

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is not now permitted
The Only Paper that ~~Dares~~ to Tell You All The Truth

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS ...	705—708	AIR PACTS AND THE POWERS— <i>Boyd Cable</i> ...	719
WHAT IS MR. BALDWIN'S POLICY— <i>M.B.</i> ...	709	STRANGLING BRITISH TRADE WITH INDIA— <i>Sir Michael F. O'Dwyer</i> ...	720—721
A CONSERVATIVE POLICY— <i>Kim</i> ...	710	DON'T BET FROM MEMORY— <i>David Learmonth</i> ...	722
HOLIDAY PROSPECT— <i>Hamadryad</i> ...	711	A CHANCE FOR ACTION— <i>Special Correspondent</i> ...	723
ABYSSINIA AND ITALY— <i>Ignatius Phayre</i> ...	712—713	THEATRE NOTES— <i>C.S.</i> ...	724
GERMAN PENETRATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA— <i>F. C. Melville</i> ...	713	NEW BOOKS I CAN RECOMMEND— <i>Literary Critic</i> ...	725—726
OUR PURBLIND POLITICIANS— <i>Robert Machray</i> ...	714	EMPIRE WEEK BY WEEK ...	729—732
EVE IN PARIS ...	715	CINEMA— <i>Mark Forrest</i> ...	733
CORRESPONDENCE ...	716—717	BROADCASTING— <i>Alan Howland</i> ...	733
A PAGEANT OF PATRIOTISM— <i>Major G. H. Reade</i> ...	718	CITY ...	734—736
		GRAMOPHONE NOTES— <i>Shanty</i> ...	736

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

"Forbidden to write my views, I am giving the views of others which coincide with my own, culled from many different sources."

LUCY HOUSTON.

Windsor's Big Week

Windsor Corporation has decided to spend £1,200 on street decorations and illuminations for the town's week of Jubilee celebrations, beginning on June 15, on which day the King and Queen make a State drive through the town.

The Mayor, Councillor Short, said: "We are determined to make it a gala week in every sense of the word. It will be Windsor's greatest week since the 1897 Jubilee."

The North Terrace and Round Tower of Windsor Castle will be floodlit, and the River Thames illuminated. On every evening of the week there will be sports, either on the river or in the gardens, and torchlight processions.

On June 15, after the Royal procession, there will be a battle of flowers in the streets, and later 500 firemen and ex-Service men will take part in a torchlight procession which the King has given permission to visit the Castle and march beneath the windows of the Royal apartment.

On Monday, June 17, the first service of the Most Noble Order of the Garter to be held for 22 years will take place in St. George's Chapel, and the service will be followed by a State banquet in St. George's Hall at the Castle.

That night Eton College boys and Old Etonians will march to the grand quadrangle of the Castle with torchlights, and will cheer their Majesties.

On Wednesday, when the Thames will be flood-

lit, Eton College will join the residents of Windsor and Eton in a gigantic river fête.

Evening News.

Trouble in Paradise

There is trouble in Paradise—that little world of comradeship wherein the Putney Socialists move and have their being.

The Putney ward want one candidate, but London Labour Party H.Q. want to force another. So the general committee of Putney, obedient to the caucus whip and treasure chest, have expelled the Putney ward *en bloc* from the Labour Party.

Says one member of the Putney Socialist democracy: "Herbert Morrison, boss of London Labour, has nothing to learn from Stalin, who dictates to Russia, when it comes to liquidating an oppositionist centre." Says another, in the



language of Huey Long, who dictates to Louisiana, "Herbert has done a Huey on us!"

Did you hear of the old farmer who said, when his hot-tempered son complained of the number of fools in the market: "Don't be too hard on 'em, Johnny boy. If they was all as smart as you and me, us two mightn't get along so easy."

Daily Express.

Bolsheviks and Empire Day

Reginald Reynolds, Secretary of the League Against Imperialism (Communist), writing in the *New Leader*, 24 May, on Empire Day Celebrations, made the usual Bolshevik attack upon "our glorious Empire." After stating what he would tell the children on Empire Day, if he were a headmaster of a school, he ended as follows:—

Nearly a year ago a Member of Parliament complained of the sparse attendance of the Government supporters at a debate on the Colonial Report. To this complaint a Conservative member replied that "when shareholders fail to turn up at a meeting it indicates approval of the policy being pursued." *Manchester Guardian*, July 13, 1934.

You and I are not, I hope, shareholders in the bloody business of Britannia, Ltd., though I am grateful for the candour of the Conservative who put the position of his own party so frankly. Nor am I a headmaster. But we all have a direct responsibility, both to those who are starving under the Union Jack and to those who are imbibing the adulterated instruction of our Capitalist-controlled schools. Every means should be employed to stop Empire Day Celebrations.

The Patriot.

Cabinet Alarums and Excursions

For three years *The Patriot* has been pointing out that a steadily increasing number of Conservatives have become convinced that the "National" Government has been switched into a branch line of policy by our Socialist Premier, who has been able to influence Mr. Baldwin, and other members of the Cabinet, in a manner quite out of proportion to the ratio of Conservative to Socialist M.P.'s.



The feeling that Mr. Baldwin, and the officials of the Central Conservative Office are not to be trusted for fighting spirit in the present critical times of an approaching general election has just been made public by the revolt of five M.P.'s, who have given notice to Mr. Baldwin that this policy is not giving confidence, and particularly that the India Bill is being conducted towards a hopeless surrender of a vital portion of the Empire. The names of the protestants, who say they will renounce the National Government Whip, are: The Duchess of Atholl, Lieut.-Commander F. W. Astbury, Sir Joseph Nall, Mr. Linton Thorp, K.C., and Lieut.-Colonel A. J. K. Todd.

While the number of M.P.'s so far involved is small, it is evident that there are many Conservatives who can be counted on to join the objectors, should a serious ballot be invited. This is a fact well known to those who watch the internal differences which rend the Conservative organisations

in many constituencies. Last week's *Patriot* referred to the dissatisfaction given form by Sir Philip Stott, the founder of the college at Ashridge, which has suffered for five years from the enervating gas emanating from the Conservative Central Office. When the time is come to choose between the caucus candidate of the workers for a "National" Party and some sound Conservative nominee of any constituency, there is going to be a mighty wave of propaganda launched to persuade the electorate of the danger of splitting the Party vote, to the advantage of the Socialists. The argument will be potent with the many ill-informed habitual voters for Conservatism, and it is for the Die-hards to organise a forcible opposition to the officialdom which assumes an authority over voters on policy not to be tolerated by the local organisations throughout the country.

Conservatives generally, and some recently formed associations with strongly pronounced patriotic objects in view, are not happy in their attempts to bring pressure on the leadership and officialdom of the Party. There is no co-operation in the scattered movements, and all efforts in the past to rally them under one banner have failed in any serious mobilisation. It is, therefore, desirable to make it widely known that there must be no waiting on any hope or promise of somebody doing something. The individual patriotic fighters must do their utmost to join the movements within their reach which are committed to opposing the nomination of a nerveless candidate, and, if necessary, to backing a second and sounder candidate, in spite of dictatorship of the Central Office, or some local caucus. The threat of ills which will follow a splitting of the Conservative vote must be ignored; and its undoubted power over the weak-kneed and unthinking voters can be neutralised largely by the boldness with which the opposition nomination is conducted.

Before the next general election there seems to be a strong probability of changes in the distribution of Cabinet places; and one such change, it is to be devoutly hoped, will be the taking of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald off the shoulders of Mr. Baldwin. With this handicap removed, it is possible that the lightened Mr. Baldwin may find Parliamentary avenues leading to some daylight on the Indian problem, some illumination of the Central Office dark places, and some glimpse of the weak places of Socialism that must be exposed continuously.

The Patriot.

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London: "What a Target!"

Vice-Admiral Sir Barry E. Domville, speaking at the 1912 Club for Speakers in London last night, said:

"What a magnificent target for enemy aircraft is afforded by the docks and warehouses of the Port of London!"

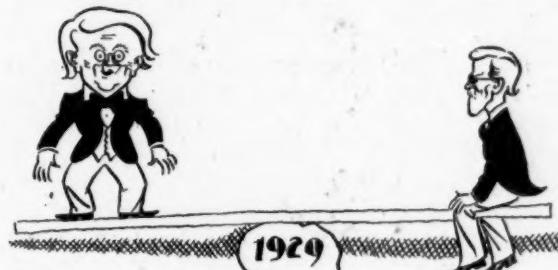
He urged the building of new naval bases and ports, where defence would be easier.

"Chatham is out of date," he said. "It is uneconomical and most vulnerable."

Daily Express.



In South Aberdeen last week the Socialist vote showed a decline of 3,000 compared with 1929. At Tamworth and Eastbourne the Socialists did not venture to contest the seats. West Edinburgh, which they held in 1929 by 2,800 majority, they lost by 6,000 votes three weeks ago. At Perth, a fortnight earlier, the majority against them was



3,000 larger than in 1929. And if the Socialists are to secure power they must do distinctly better than in 1929, when they only held office through Liberal complaisance.

Daily Mail.



A Middle Course

In the House of Commons to-day there will be an important debate on foreign policy, when the Government is expected to state its views concerning Herr Hitler's speech of a fortnight ago more fully and definitely than it has yet done. This can do nothing but good. It is most desirable that the country should have a clear idea what our foreign policy is and that the Dominions and foreign countries should be left under no doubts.

Since the marvellous development of aviation has taken place geographical conditions forbid for us a policy of complete isolation from Europe. But there is a middle course between this and participation in every Continental quarrel.

It is to adopt a policy of detachment, co-operating as far as possible with the United States, and holding aloof from European entanglements. Such a course should be facilitated by President Roosevelt's friendly reply to the appeal which Mr. Baldwin addressed to him this week, for "the close collaboration of the British Empire with the United States" in the cause of peace.

On Wednesday Mr. Roosevelt was asked whether he reciprocated Mr. Baldwin's desire, and he replied, "Most certainly we do." This answer

brings close co-operation between the two great English-speaking Powers much nearer practical politics.

But for that Great Britain must prepare to play her full part by strengthening her defences and, above all, expanding her dangerously weak air fleet.

Signor Mussolini's action in mobilising and holding under arms a million men is evidence of the safety measures that are considered necessary by one of the most prudent of Continental Governments, in an age when it is the first duty of a great Power to be strong. We should take adequate precautions here at once, but with the determination to hold resolutely aloof from entanglements in Continental quarrels. The fussiness of our Ministers in gadding by rail or air to Geneva and foreign capitals is a great mistake, as it suggests that the primary idea in British policy is meddling in foreign politics.

Only in the event of vital British interests being directly attacked can European politics become our concern. Nobody in Great Britain is interested in the future of Austria or in the futilities on which the League of Nations wastes so much time. Whether the Germans of that diminutive State like to adhere to the Germans of Germany or prefer to remain independent is a matter of complete indifference to the public in these islands.



Hungary's Right to Arm

Hungary demands the right to re-arm. This declaration of her Prime Minister, General Gömbös, will be welcomed by all those friends of Hungary who desire that justice shall be done to a great people. They were made the scapegoats of the war. For fifteen years they have suffered with exemplary patience the territorial amputations made by the Treaty of Trianon.

Under that instrument Hungary lost two-thirds of her territory and three-fifths of her population. Her army was reduced to 35,000 men with arms of the most meagre description, and she was forbidden to have any air force at all. General Gömbös has pointed out that the Little Entente countries round her have 500,000 men permanently under arms.

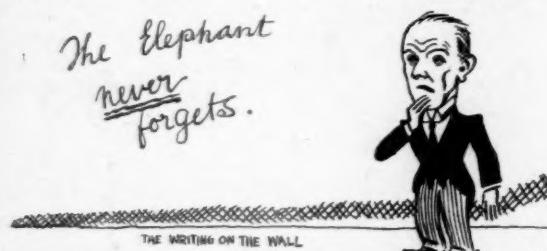
Such disparity obviously constitutes a threat to the peace of Europe. All that Hungary asks is the right to defend herself. Even if all her demands were fulfilled she would still be inferior in military strength to the weakest of the Little Entente countries. In the words of her Prime Minister, she wants only "moral compensation." She has well earned it, and she should be granted the right to re-arm without delay.

Daily Mail.

Sir Samuel Hoare's Lapse

A surprising ignorance of the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on Indian constitutional reform displayed in the House of Commons on Monday by Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary for India, was the subject of much comment in the lobbies yesterday, writes our Political Correspondent.

Sir Alfred Knox, opposing the India Bill, recalled a remark by Sir Manubhai Mehta, Prime Minister of Bikanir, in which he told the Committee, referring to certain financial arrangements



contingent on the States entering the Federation, that if the States did not enter they would not get the money. Sir Samuel Hoare thereupon declared that he did not remember "anything of the sort being said."

The words used by Sir Manubhai Mehta are given in Volume 283 of the Committee's Report, which records that on October 23, 1933, he put the following question to Mr. Winston Churchill:

"Are you aware that the Davidson Committee also reported that many States had not been very fairly treated, and large financial sums were due to them and they would be paid to them only if they entered the Federation? You now stop the Federation. What becomes of their financial claims?"

The question was put in the presence of Sir Samuel Hoare.

Morning Post.

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The Hill of Adventure

Perhaps a legal lecture is a surprising place in which to find, nobly expressed, a social philosophy. Lord Hewart, in the Clarke Hall Fellowship Lecture which he delivered yesterday, passed beyond legality into the wider compass of humanity. His subject was that of "Young Offenders," but he spoke of the young spirit of adventure.

"There are those," he said, "among the great explorers who might have been charged with breaking and entering. There are, indeed, from time to time adventurous boys in the dock who should be at sea; there are those found wandering who should be found a hill of adventure that they may climb."

Adventurousness may so easily go a little awry. That same spirit which may take one young man to the summit of Kanchen-Junga and great and deserved fame may bring another to the police court dock and Borstal gates. Courage and daring and enterprise breed as freely in the mean

streets and the dingy back alleys as in freer, happier places. You may sometimes have little knowledge of or respect for the things which maturity values, and one adventure can seem as exciting as another, and call for the same zest and recklessness.

These are qualities which cannot be crushed, but they can be twisted. Of their abiding value, to individuals and to the race, there can be no question. A wise social organisation and properly administered justice will see that they are given fair opportunities. It is not a matter of sentimentality or misplaced leniency for the young offender. "Neither in pity nor in anger," said the Lord Chief Justice, "should he be judged, but rather with justice and understanding."

Understanding—if the grown-up, in authority, can give that, then few difficulties of youth are insoluble. It is the stubborn loneliness, the sense of a world obstinately and dully against him, which makes the young offender seen so often before the magistrates' desk.

Society has a duty to these young, often with a heritage of poverty and neglect, flung amongst it, jarred and bewildered. It is to remove, however and wherever it comes, that thwarted sense of loneliness, and recreate the knowledge of companionship and of effort worth while. Then the blind alleys will be opened and the way be clear to the hill of adventure.

Evening News.

••

Promise to Hungary

The Nazi leader is believed to have promised, among other advantages, support for the Hungarian treaty revision policy, especially on the side of Yugoslavia. By means of a friendly arrangement with the Yugoslavs, who were also to be drawn over to the German camp, parts of Croatia and Slovenia, which were given to Yugoslavia by the Peace Treaties, would, it has been suggested, be handed back to Hungary, the former being compensated with political and economic concessions made by Germany.

Whether such a plan could ever materialise is regarded as extremely doubtful. The relations between Yugoslavia and Hungary do not hold out much hope of mutual concessions, and, though Belgrade has evinced German sympathies in the past, it is also much nearer to being reconciled with Rome.

It seems more likely, in fact, that if the Danubian Pact fails it will be due, not to German diplomacy, but to the hopeless jealousies and suspicions of the Danubian States. The clamour raised by Hungary for treaty revision, both in the matter of armaments and territories, the internal difficulties of Austria, the hostility of the Little Entente, especially Czechoslovakia, to the Hapsburgs, have lately proved more difficult to reconcile than ever.

Morning Post.

What Is Mr. Baldwin's Policy?

By M. B.

THE coming Cabinet changes cannot but fill the minds of all thinking people with acutely anxious forebodings and anxieties, for it is a distinction without a difference and is really only playing a game of musical chairs. It is without doubt a moment when one would like to have a stable Government and men one could trust in control.

The most important change in the Cabinet is, of course, the appointment of Mr. Baldwin in the place of Mr. MacDonald. This "Box and Cox" movement leaves one wondering and a little uncertain as to the real reason underlying this change. Those who have watched Mr. Baldwin's career and, more especially, have followed the reaction of his policy during his two terms as Prime Minister of England and also during the years when he has served under a Socialist leader (if he is a Socialist as we know Socialism) may well ask themselves whether he is a great Conservative as we know Conservatism.

Mr. Baldwin was elected by a Conservative electorate, and it is difficult to see how Mr. Baldwin, in accepting the Premiership of a "National" Government, will still be able to represent himself as a Conservative and expect, when the General Election takes place, Conservatives in his constituency to vote for him as a "National."

SINISTER INFLUENCE

One fact alone denies Mr. Baldwin's alleged Conservatism. In supporting the India Bill—condemned by all Conservatives—he has shown himself to be at loggerheads with the party of which he is the supreme representative, and dominated by some almost sinister influence in his determination to foist upon Parliament a measure so disastrous to the future of the British Empire.

Can Mr. Baldwin perhaps explain why a distinguished (retired) Civil Servant, who has spent thirty years of his life as a servant of the Crown in India, and has studied the conditions and political questions, etc., of that unhappy country in such a way as to give him a profound and accurate knowledge, that might be of inestimable value, was informed at the Central Office that they would on no account support his candidature for Parliament unless he indicated his entire agreement with the White Paper?

Who are Mr. Baldwin's most ardent supporters? I was present at a recent by-election when the Conservative candidate (a young man with a few years' service as a soldier in India) addressed his constituency, and I have seldom seen such a pitiable exhibition of ignorance on all political questions, and more especially in regard to India. Incidentally, the election was won by the Labour Party, though at the previous election there had been a

large Conservative majority. But one cannot help asking oneself whether Mr. Baldwin depends on such young men for help and support and if he intends filling Parliament with members so entirely lacking in knowledge, tact or discretion.

In the *Saturday Review* of April 13th Sir Lionel Haworth quotes a saying of Disraeli: "They ask us for loyalty to a leader who has betrayed every Conservative principle."

"Truly history repeats itself," Sir Lionel continues, "but Disraeli left that leader rather than give up those principles which had made his country great, the principles which under his guidance and leadership restored England to its Imperial position, the position which Mr. Baldwin, surrounded by his Socialist friends, but still quoting Disraeli, tells us belongs to a day which is done. Are the Conservatives content to follow such leadership? Is there any Conservative in the country who can tell us the policy of the Conservative party? To such a position has Mr. Baldwin's leadership reduced us."

Now that Mr. Baldwin is for the third time to be Prime Minister of England, we think it is time that the public should be told what this policy is, and, above all, we think it is time that Mr. Baldwin should declare himself and tell us which party he really represents—Socialist or Conservative—and his definition of that policy.

A Creed!!!

(A parable 'thout prejudice)

Wot did yer do in the War, Daddy?
'Oo arks sich questions now?
Young folks sure finds their bits o' fun,
They blinkin well know 'ow!
Wot did yer do in the War, Nunk?
Wot did yer do h'in the War?
'Ee didn't 'oopee in cocktail joints,
Or tote 'is dinky car!

* * *

They didn't, if yer sez it, do sich a bloomin' lot,
Nor didn't take no credit for getting gassed, and shot.
They didn't 'arp 'eroics abart the stress and strain,
In spite o' wot they did or not, War's showin' h'up again!!
You've told us 'ow we messed things h'up all very plain
an' true,
But if the circus starts again is nothink up to 'oo?

* * *

All very wise and sensible ter be too praad ter fight,
In bein' calm and peaceable a'seein' h'of the light!
But someone 'opps yer gardin' fence and clomps yer on
the 'ead,
Yer wouldn't argue h'anny more—ye'd blinkin' well
be dead!
So bein' you could realise that 'avin' done fer you,
This self-same cove gets doin' in the kids an' missus too,
T'would be all 'unkydory no doubt as you'd suppose,
But I think I'd find a better way o' turning h'up my
toes!!

"BUNGLING BILL."

A Conservative Policy

By Kim

AT the end of this week Mr. Baldwin will be Prime Minister again, as he might well have been in 1931 had he then led the Conservative Party with any resolution. It is with hearty relief we are to be rid of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, although by all accounts he will remain the Old Man of the Sea, sitting on the shoulders of the Cabinet. But the question we have to consider is whether the Mr. Baldwin of 1935 is likely to retain the loyalty of the great and trusting Conservative Party. Can he, a Conservative, give us a Conservative policy for a change?

He chooses the occasion immediately after the dishonest India Bill has been forced through the House of Commons on its third reading, moved by Sir Samuel Hoare. Mr. Baldwin must realise to the full how hateful this measure is to the most loyal section of intelligent Conservatives. It has been argued without justification that the rank and file as a whole are apathetic on the subject of India, but whenever the surrender of India has been made a leading issue the result has shown a strong revolt against surrenderism. Mr. Winston Churchill, whose opposition to this sinister Bill has throughout been admirable, and, with his 70 stalwarts, has riddled it with criticism and ridicule, will have finally warned the nation of the effects, while Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords may be depended on to lead a strong wing of Peers and move certain drastic amendments.

INTO ENEMY HANDS

The Government have jeopardised British trade in India and Burma; they offer no security of the police to their own race in India or to loyal natives; and they have played deliberately into the hands of Britain's avowed enemies and assassins. It has, however, yet to be decided whether the Chamber of Princes will accept the Government's version of a Federal India.

This ill-advised Bill for which the Government could claim no mandate whatsoever from the constituencies, when it is on the Statute Book, must soon begin to lead to grave difficulties and dangers. By then Mr. Baldwin, having trampled on Conservative principles, hopes to have been returned at the General Election again at the head of a great majority. It is also part of his policy to capture the whole Conservative machine and put in place of it his idea of a "National" Party, which is an utter misnomer, because it depends almost entirely on Conservative support, the handful who make up the "National" outfit being only the odds and ends who have an axe to grind.

Mr. Baldwin, it must be admitted, has had luck on his side. He has the most servile following in the House of Commons any party leader has ever commanded. Except for some seventy among them—all of whom are safe to hold their seats

when the time comes—they are a mediocre collection who are only too anxious to obey the whips. There is no effective official opposition, for the Socialist Party is torn asunder and has not a single leader who inspires the slightest confidence. The Liberals do not count any longer.

The only effective opposition has been that of the Conservatives who remain adamant on the subject of India, and the same section have been the leading critics of the Government's neglect of our national defences. It would be to the advantage of the nation if this body of genuine Conservative opinion were to take the bull by the horns and, like the Duchess of Atholl and her friends, refuse any longer to recognise the "National" Government as deserving of their support.

A TEST OF CHARACTER

Well, we are now going to see what Mr. Baldwin will make of his opportunity. Mr. Garvin, in *The Observer* on Sunday, called on him to be magnanimous towards those Conservatives who have opposed the Government on the India Bill and other matters, as their consciences compelled them to do. Magnanimity has hitherto never been a virtue of Mr. Baldwin. His character, outwardly bland and affable, is rather petty, and with this defect of character it is difficult to have any faith in the reconstructed Government under his leadership, especially if, as rumoured, he intends to give the Foreign Secretaryship to Sir Samuel Hoare, who possesses not a single gift which justifies such an appointment.

The test of Mr. Baldwin's Government, however, will shortly come on the question of the restoration of our national defences. So far there has been much talk but little doing in regard to the Air Force, the Navy and the Land forces of the Crown. If Mr. Baldwin were capable of leading the country along sound Conservative principles, there would be no doubt whatever that when the General Election takes place the public response would be enormous.

The true Conservative policy needs to include first of all a complete restoration of our Naval and Air Force supremacy. Next it requires to bring to a conclusion as rapidly as possible all these quotas and trade pacts with foreign nations, granting generous protection to home producers and preference to our Dominions and Colonies. It wants a new policy towards settling people on the land and a strong encouragement to put our merchant shipping on its legs by solid aid and preference in our own and the Empire ports.

That is a sound and simple Conservative policy which will give us security and prosperity. But will Mr. Baldwin show at long last that he intends to rule firmly or will he again gravitate towards the disruptionists? We shall soon know.

HOLIDAY PROSPECT

I do not care
If Ramsay Mac.
Has been given the air,
And won't come back;
I've nothing to say
If Simon, J.
Is going away
After getting the sack.

For I am bound
For a sunny beach,
If such can be found
Within easy reach;
In a train I'll ride
To a spot well tried,
Where flows the tide,
And the sea-birds screech.

I do not know
Or care, what's more,
If they'll give the F.O.
To Sir Samuel Hoare,
Who'll scuttle and run
From Hitler's gun,
His brand of fun
Being gas, not gore.

For I'll lie asprawl
On top of a cliff,
Or be hitting a ball
An almighty biff,
Or having partaken

Of fowl and bacon,
Prone as a kraken
The breeze I'll sniff.

My sweet repose
Nothing shall ruffle;
Who comes, who goes
In the Cabinet shuffle;
Who grabs the most,
Who misses the post,
In the thick of that most
Unseemly scuffle,

Will leave me cold
As my morning dip
(If I make so bold
As to dare the nip
Of the weed that mingles
Among the shingles,
The sand that tingles,
The waves that whip).

No fist I'll bang,
I shall heave no sob,
When the same old gang
Remains on the job.
Even if Stanley
Should go to—Hanley,
No tears unmanly
My sleep will rob.

HAMADRYAD.

The Royal Bird Sanctuary

By Eric Hardy, F.Z.S.

MANY and varied are the feathered visitors to the little bird sanctuary in the grounds of Buckingham Palace which the King created in 1930, and, as there are ponds and lakes here, bird-lovers rightly appreciate its value in encouraging bird-life in inner London.

From St. James' Park come at times the kingfishers, right royal birds whose brilliant, turquoise blue plumage reflects the light. On the ponds there are the waterhens or moorhens, dainty little black water-birds with bright red bills tipped yellow, noticed as they bob their heads paddling their way over a pond, and the last we see of them disappearing into the vegetation are the two white feathers flashing under their black tails which they flick as they go. Sometimes the waterhens are feeding out on the lawns, and then is about the only time they are seen flying, retreating back to the water.

The nests of the waterhens are large nurseries plaited out of rushes and grasses in the shelter beside the ponds, but in 1932 a pair of waterhens built their nest at the top of a holly bush, twelve feet above the ground.

The same year two fascinating little visitors

came to the royal ponds from St. James' Park in the little grebes, which nested in the King's sanctuary for the first time. These little diving birds, often called dabchicks, are the smallest relatives of the great crested grebes seen on the Serpentine and the London reservoirs, and easily recognised by their dark brown feathers and rich chestnut throats. The swimming and diving powers of the little grebe are wonderful compared to the more clumsy movements of the waterhen. Mallard duck also nest on the royal ponds, where the waters are quieter than in the parks, and the annual procession across the road of a mother mallard and her string of flappers journeying from the Buckingham Palace grounds to the nearest park is a familiar London feature.

There are thrushes and blackbirds in the shrubberies, and more than one pair of wood-pigeons have nested in the trees. Starlings find nesting room in the holes in the boughs, and the haunting phrases of robin melody, the ringing bell-like notes of the titmice, or the jubilant scales of the hedge-sparrow may all be heard in the sanctuary at times. London birds benefit greatly because it is there.

Abyssinia and Italy

By Ignatius Phayre

THE Abyssinian Chargé d'Affaires (Ato Ephrem Tewoldo Medhem) called upon me recently with documents which had been prepared in Addis Ababa by the Foreign Minister, Blaten Güeta Herouy, for the League Council and States Members in Geneva. Here was Abyssinia's "brief," or detailed story of the Wal Wal battle with Captain Loberto Cimmaruta's native levies, which began at 3.30 p.m. on December 5th last.

Reporting his losses on that tragic day the Governor of the Ogaden (Fitaurari Shiffera Balcha) says that "107 of our men were killed and 45 wounded in this fight." But the Italian officer insists that it was *he* who was "attacked in force without any warning"—and that "in the territory of H.M. the King of Italy." The Abyssinians in turn insist that the clash—which took their soldiers by surprise—was at least 100 kilometres within the Menelik-Nerazzini line of 1897—which is to say, in Abyssinia's domain as confirmed by the Treaty of 1908.

This grave matter is just now *sub judice*; but the question arises: Why was not "the said frontier-line delimited *on the ground* as soon as possible"—to quote the text of the Pact of May 16, 1908? The answer is simple: at that time, and for long after, Menelik II. had his hands full in his own mediaeval realm. His new title was "King of Kings"; but his turbulent kinglets continued to assert their ancient rights, even as they have done under the present enlightened Emperor, Hailé Selassié I—who had to use bombing planes in 1932 in order to assert the "Central Government's" authority.

CIVIL WAR

Menelik's heir, young Lij Yasu, became a pervert to Islam and plunged this weird land in a ferocious civil war, until he was deposed by the Coptic Patriarch. That erratic lad fled for refuge to the King of Gojam's highland wilds. His father, Ras Mikael, was then brought to Addis, chained to the "Crusader" who had captured him; and he was there paraded in a dusty triumph before the victorious troops.

Then Princess Zauditu (Judith) was let out of gaol (where her harum-scarum boy relative had placed her for safety); and she was then solemnly "elected" Empress as great Menelik's daughter.

That dusky lady had so troubled and fearsome a time that she picked Ras Tafari as co-ruler and Regent, to share with her the last and most prickly of African thrones. When that Empress wilted away into a middle-aged grave, Ras Tafari stood forth alone as the "Elect of God" and "Conquering Lion."

He soon emptied the barbaric Treasury in Addis

Ababa for a Coronation-tamasha, which the Duke of Gloucester shared with a brilliant host of foreign guests in 1930. And ever since—as Hailé Selassié I ("Power of the Holy Trinity") that frail and cultured little Semite has laboured to make a "nation" out of a vague "Heptarchy" which is beyond all hope in our time.

In no less than seventy languages had the little Emperor to be proclaimed. His bi-cameral "Parliament," his passion for schools and roads, hospitals and sanitation; his anti-slavery edicts, with the new army and radio stations—all these loom only as pathetic *pia desideria* to any European who has had even a glimpse of Abyssinia as it is to-day outside Addis and the other few poor and sprawling towns.

A slave-State it remains, sagging away into dim savage marches which abut upon Kenya, Uganda and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, as well as upon Eritrea and three Somalilands—French, British and Italian—whose scrubby lowlands seem to "moat" this lofty citadel of the centuries, and have long ago cut it off from its natural Red Sea littoral.

BLOOD AND FIRE

The other day, at a debate in the Roman Senate, Signor Lessona (who is Mussolini's Under-Secretary of State), dwelt shrewdly on the "nuisance-value" of Abyssinia as its most salient trait. The French had suffered from it. Our own colonial spheres must needs maintain costly Slavery Patrols against lawless raids from the loosest of all Empires. Hundreds of these have figured in our Foreign Office White Books; those fierce forays of blood and fire and human anguish have also been debated in the House of Lords.

In brief, this Abyssinia is but a crude anachronism of our day. The wildness of a thousand years can never be civilised in one monarch's lifetime. When the League admitted him as a member in 1923, it was only on condition that he put an end to the chattel-slavery system of a thousand years. Nine years later, Lord Noel Buxton and Lord Polwarth visited this harassed "King of Kings" in Addis, only to find that he had done little or nothing in the way of "abolition"; for though he had the will, he had not the power to work a reform which his Coptic Church and his self-willed princes resolutely opposed.

Then, for a generation or more, Abyssinia has shilly-shallied with our own Government over the waters of the Blue Nile, which arise amid holy shrines in her highlands, and mean the economic life of Egypt and the Sudan plantations.

Even the Empire's population is still but a guess.

From its capital to the sea at Djibouti, only one small railway runs, and that was built with French capital. No one can with certainty say just where Abyssinia begins or ends on all its six frontiers with the encircling Powers. How then, can Foreign Minister and Palace Chamberlain, Blaten Herouy, complain to the League—as he did soon after the Wal Wal clash, that : " The Italians are advancing into Abyssinian territory and are building a motor-road from Wardair towards Ado and Gerlogubi " ?

Our progressive world cannot stand still. Here is a rich, but sadly derelict land of unfailing rains, uplifted geographically in a perennial summer clime, with a marvellous soil for cotton, coffee, sugar and grain, and every sub-soil treasure from gold to coal and iron and fuel oil. How long can such a survival last in its present state of lawless misrule and economic negation ?

WHAT MUSSOLINI WANTS

Mussolini maintains that his New Italy, as a civilising " agent," should be given a free hand there, alike in the interests of the Powers and of Abyssinia herself. That forceful genius would redeem this vast land from its hopeless welter as a " danger to all its neighbours"—this is Signor Lessona's phrase.

But can the present " King of Kings " dare to

accept Italy's offer of progress and salvation ? I fear he dare not, without being swept off his precious throne by kinglets whose way of life is as remote from our own as though they lived on another planet. Warrior barons are these, often ruling millions of serfs, and with armies of their own; men-at-arms with spear and shield, fierce mounted knights in lion's mane head-dress and silver-laden harness. Ever since the *débâcle* of Adowa, the Amharas or ruling caste of this Empire of " mixed races " (as the Arabs called Abyssinia long ago) have despised the arms of Italy.

A HERCULEAN TASK

This I regard as the most fateful phase in the drama which is now developing in Massua and Mogadiscio as well as in Addis Ababa and Rome. Grave dangers do, indeed, lie ahead in this last and strangest of African strongholds. To bring order and civilisation to all its forlorn peoples, slave and free, may be a herculean task for Italy to undertake. But all the world knows Benito Mussolini for a humane realist; a constructive statesman of incomparable achievement in his own New Italy, as well as a bold, tenacious leader in the mission overseas, of which Tasso sang :—

*Che spesso avvien che ne' maggior perigli
Sono i più audaci gli ottimi consigli !*

German Penetration in Czechoslovakia

By C. F. Melville

Prague

THE Parliamentary elections which have just been held in Czechoslovakia are likely to be of particular moment not only to the Czechoslovaks but also to the whole of Central Europe. The significant fact is the very considerable success at the polls of the new German Home Front Party of Herr Konrad Henlein, a success gained at the expense of the older German Parties, such as the Agrarians, the Christian-Socials and the Social-Democrats.

The older German Parties—which were " activist," or loyal to the Czechoslovak State, and some of which were in the last Government in coalition with the Czech parties—have lost very heavily indeed, many thousands of German voters in Bohemia having deserted them for the party of Herr Henlein.

Herr Henlein has declared his loyalty to the Czechoslovak State, but it is nevertheless a fact that his party is German Nationalist in ideology, and very similar to the Nazi Party in the Reich in organisation. It is likewise worthy of note that it has taken the place of the one-time German Nationalist and Nazi Parties which had previously been dissolved by the Government.

Herr Henlein himself has not done anything

compromising, but some of his lieutenants have ; and it is also well known, although legal proof is difficult to obtain, that couriers pass from time to time between his party and the Nazi headquarters in Germany.

The incidence of the emergence of this German Nationalist Group in Czechoslovakia with the renewal of German Hitlerist agitation in Austria is undoubtedly a portent and a sign. The German " *Drang nach Osten* " and " *Drang nach Suden* " in Central Europe has made a considerable advance.

This is not to say that Czechoslovakia is faced with any immediate danger. But the potential menace is clear to see. The Czechs are a practical people, with great energy and an inbred capacity for resistance. They will know how to deal with this situation. But when one takes the longer view it is evident that the Pan-German movement in Central and South-Eastern Europe is steadily pushing its way eastwards and southwards and that, if successful, it will eventually result in a Germanic domination of the greater part of Europe. Therein lies the potential threat to the peace of Europe. It is because of this that the outcome of the present elections in Czechoslovakia should be carefully noted in Western Europe.

Our Purblind Politicians

By Robert Machray

THE name "Rump Parliament" was given as a suitable description of the Long Parliament, which was left sitting after Pride had purged it of most of its members in 1648. It is not quite so easy to find an adjective to apply to our present Parliament that is equally expressive, particularly as conveying the double sense of the other. The word "smug" at once suggests itself, but perhaps rhyme as well as reason indicates "chump" as better and more appropriate in its plain meaning of stupid.

On Friday of last week the House of Commons, on a vote for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Office, had a full-dress debate on British policy and the peace of Europe. At the moment no subject could be more important: it is, or ought to be, of paramount interest, because it involves the most tremendous issues of life and death for us all. There is nothing academic, indistinct, uncertain or remote about it, for clearly it is a matter of "here and now." Not only the peace of Europe but the safety of England and the Empire are concerned.

NOT FACING REALITIES

Quite a number of speeches were delivered, beginning with one by Sir Herbert Samuel, representing the Liberal (Opposition) party, who had asked for the debate. Among others who spoke were Sir John Simon, Sir Austen Chamberlain, Sir S. Cripps, Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, Colonel Headlam, Mr. Bernays, Colonel Wedgwood, Major Attlee, and one or two more of less note. All these speeches, with the exception of those by Churchill and to a less extent by Sir Austen, had one and the same strange characteristic, namely, the lack of any adequate sense of the vital significance of the subject under discussion. Any deep feeling that realities, not abstractions, were being dealt with was conspicuous by its absence. The House might have been a cheap little uninformed debating society in a back street.

If anyone will take the trouble to read these speeches carefully, he will see that, with the exceptions already noted, their general tone betrayed no consciousness of the extreme urgency and danger of the situation in Europe—it was as if the storm, if there was a storm at all, was infinitely distant, and there was no need to bother oneself about it. As the result of all this, the House, we were assured by a well-known commentator in a Sunday paper, "not unnaturally" rose that Friday "on good terms with itself and the world." There was said to be a brighter prospect. Is there?

It was Herr Hitler's Thirteen Points and the statements accompanying them, with special reference to what is now being called the Air Locarno, that occupied the House. What was obvious was that our fatuous Government, with its customary

wilful blindness, had "fallen for" Hitler, and was only too eager to meet more than half-way any approaches he was supposed to have made. Hence more talks and talks and talks!

Sir Austen brought something of reality into the debate by drawing attention to the Austrian problem, but it was Winston who really faced the situation when he declared there was another and dark side to the rosy pictures painted by the other speakers. "One would imagine," he said, "that the dangers were over, were in process of abating. The exact contrary is the truth, for they are steadily advancing upon us. . . . One must nourish one's hopes, but should not overlook the realities."

The fundamental reality is the reappearance of Germany as the greatest military State in Europe. It is not of the slightest use for our Parliament to try to get away from that overriding fact; the ostrich-policy will not serve. Hitler is not standing still under cover of his Declaration of May 21, though our mandarins and Parliamentarians may think so. He is consolidating his gains and making good his deficiencies: he is adding daily large quantities of planes to his Air Fleet, and building submarines. But he is doing more than that, for he is using all the resources of German diplomacy to break up such combinations as have been or are being formed against him. This is the attack at present.

GERMAN DIPLOMACY

Hence the representations made to our Government respecting the clash between the Franco-Soviet Pact and the old Locarno Pact; hence also the very singular references in the Italian Press to British policy regarding Abyssinia. But, as a matter of fact, German diplomacy is extraordinarily active from the Baltic to the Black Sea—it starts with Finland, always rather pro-German, and passes right round to Yugoslavia and Bulgaria in a determined effort to keep as many States as possible from entering into any league or union against the Third Reich. Hitler rejected the Geneva decision of April 17, but the unanimity of that decision had the effect of increasing, if not creating, this effort. That unanimity had to be smashed.

While the Air Locarno is being "prepared" and naval talks are proceeding between Herr von Ribbentrop and our Government, Hitler continues to carry out his programme, not only with inflexible resolution, but with a skill and a success that are remarkable. He knows what he wants and he means to get it; long ago, as his book, *Mein Kampf*, still the Nazi Bible, testifies, he made up his mind how he was to get it. There is no wobble-wobble about his aims. How he must have roared with laughter on reading of the debate in our Parliament!

Eve in Paris

ATTENDED by his medical adviser and hiding his physical sufferings with grim determination, M. Flandin made a last appeal as President of the Council before a Chamber determined on his downfall.

M. Tardieu, returned from his long absence, listened attentively to the proceedings. His book, "Sur la Pente," just published, says of M. Flandin, whom he called to office in 1929: "He repudiated, to obey his associates of the Left, the programme he had accepted with the Doumergue Ministry." Tardieu shows that Herriot, aided by Blum, was the power behind Flandin's Government.

The appointment of M. Fernand Bouisson and his choice of a Cabinet were favourably received except by the S.F.I.O. Socialists, who consider M. Bouisson, formerly a member of their Party, a renegade, and refuse to collaborate with him. The fact that Marshal Pétain has consented to take office reassures his large following. He would allow no attack on patriotic societies.

* * * *

MUCH excitement has been caused of late by the huge withdrawals of gold from the Bank of France. In the Chamber, Léon Blum denounced the depreciation of the franc as a political ruse to provoke panic and ensure unlimited powers being given to Governments which would use them against his Party. "It is the counter-move to our success at the recent elections," he cried.

"No!" retorted M. Herriot. "It is you and your Party who have shaken foreign confidence in France."

But not only international speculation has been working against the franc; M. Patenôtre, the multi-millionaire, active partisan of devaluation, has published sensational articles in his widely-read *Petit Journal* calculated to alarm the public. The authorities have taken action against the newspaper, also against certain banks which gambled on the fall of the franc.

* * * *

A WONDERFUL banquet was given at the Hotel Georges V in aid of "Le Cercle Ronsard," an admirable institution which provides meals at a nominal price for members of the artistic and literary world reduced to dire poverty by misfortune and the present economic crisis. There are many unfortunates in Paris who, bearing their troubles bravely, are worthy of deepest sympathy. In the Place St. Pierre, near the great Basilica of Montmartre, they find rest, congenial companionship, and sup or dine not badly for under three francs, credit if necessary being given.

The Marquise de Ganay is President of the good work. She organised the dinner, for which 200 tickets at 250 francs each were sold and many donations received.

The chef of the George V, perhaps the best in Paris, aided by culinary experts, produced a feast worthy of gastronomers, and guests passed a delightful evening. *Soupe à l'Ancienne* was served, a *Sole Camille Cerf*, delectable with *Clos d'Estournelles*, sage-stuffed *Porcelets*, *Canard Rouennais*, accompanied by *Clos Vougeot*; asparagus and sweets of pineapple and strawberries completed the entertainment, Clicquot flowing from magnums.

The Marquis and Marquise de Ganay brought a party; the Ambassadors of Spain and of the Argentine were present, also the Irish Free State Minister, Count O'Kelly, who has written a book on wines and is a noted connoisseur.

* * * *

RAINPROOF coats and hats were favoured by men and women at the Enghien Races. For women, rainproofs are pleasing in design and often gay in colour, replacing the hideous dingy waterproofs of former years and affording adequate protection from the heaviest showers.

Bad weather conditions did not daunt racegoers. They considered them merely as favourable omens for the Rothschild stables and hastened to back *Coup de Foudre* and *Tonnerre* heavily for the *Prix de l'Yonne*, run to the accompaniment of thunder-claps and lightning flashes. The exciting race was won by *Coup de Foudre*, and the superstitious counted their gains and exulted.

* * * *

THE French racing world will be well represented at Ascot this year. Its members are all eager to witness the contest for the Ascot Gold Cup, when Brantôme, who has never known defeat, will race.

"Brantôme is a good little boy, gentle and willing," declared his trainer, M. Lucien Robert, "not like Aromate (a fine horse belonging to the same stables), who becomes a demon on the course."

Thoroughbreds are, of course, always highly strung and nervous, so Baron Edouard de Rothschild kept the date of the famous horse's departure a secret from the press and the public, who would have assembled to bid him farewell.

The turf has its victims. At the last Longchamp meeting an outsider named Tric-Troc savaged his lad, tearing off two fingers, and the boy was taken to hospital. The horse came in fourth, and, ignorant of his previous exploit, a sporting paper remarked, "Tric-Troc made a promising beginning."

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chancellor's Impudence

MY LADY,

I was staggered when I read Mr. Neville Chamberlain's impudent refusal of your magnificent offer of £200,000 for the defence of London and his presumptuous assumption that Parliament—in other words that bombastic oligarchy, the Cabinet—was possessed of Papal infallibility.

While, according to Mr. Chamberlain, it is not possible to accept gifts offered for expenditure upon particular services over and above that approved by Parliament, he has the cool effrontery then to suggest that you should give the money unconditionally.

To imagine that you would fall into so patent a trap and give good money to be frittered away on some vote catching, Socialistic scheme is an impudent insult to your intelligence.

No wonder you and other patriotic citizens are in despair! So long as we are ruled by a herd of ostriches who persistently bury their heads in the sand, there will be no safety for our shores and our capital will be at the mercy of any evilly disposed Power.

V. S. MANNING.

St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

A Lame Excuse

YOUR LADYSHIP,

Mr. Chamberlain's smug refusal of your magnificent offer for the defence of London—a refusal obviously decided upon by Baldwin, MacDonald & Co.—must make the blood of every patriot boil.

As you rightly point out, Mr. Chamberlain's argument, or rather the excuse put forward by the Cabal to avoid providing us with an adequate Air Force, is, in view of the recent acceptance of H.H. The Maharajah of Johore's gift towards the cost of the Singapore base, most unconvincing.

What a contrast there is between this flabby band of pacifists and the practical patriotism of Herr Hitler, who recently gratefully accepted a gift of airplanes from private sources!

J. D. HARVEY.

Southend.

A Boorish Refusal

MADAM,

Naturally you are sad and unhappy at seeing our England at the mercy of any foreign invader who chooses to attack her.

Every patriot is both sad and ashamed; but, unless I am much mistaken, the Chancellor's boorish refusal of your magnificent offer will raise a storm of indignation throughout the country.

The refusal of your offer shows just how much the Government's promises to provide an adequate Air Force are worth; for the excuse put forward by Mr. Chamberlain is too puerile to deceive any thinking person.

ANGUS MACMILLAN.

Chatham.

Accept—and No Nonsense

SIR,—Lady Houston is voicing the opinion of all true lovers of their country, despite a Conservative "leader" who is becoming again a Prime Minister out of touch with the real feelings of Britons.

It is wrong of Mr. Neville Chamberlain to insist upon any conditions. A gift for some specified and urgent need should be thankfully accepted—and no nonsense.

The defence of London should come before all shuffling as to where the £200,000 should be diverted from its true purpose. It has nothing to do with the general expenditure of the Government. The nation welcomes the splendid offer, and Mr. Chamberlain will never dare to outrage public opinion if we stand firm.

KEEN.

Sandwich Street, W.C.1.

Conservatives—to Arms!

SIR,—There is no question that Conservatives throughout the country are longing for the resuscitation of the Conservative Party with a genuine Conservative Policy.

But how can we expect such with Mr. Baldwin as the acknowledged leader? He has never been a full-blooded Conservative, and since his self-acknowledged brotherhood with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald he has shed altogether the faintest vestige of Conservatism that he ever possessed, and has embraced that hybrid breed of Socialism which is as dishonest as it is despicable. Not until Mr. Baldwin ceases to pose as the Conservative leader can one hope for a revival of Conservative principles.

The Duchess of Atholl and her supporters have already given a long needed lead and it is up to Conservatives to support them by every means in their power to bring about a change in the leadership. Let them remember that Socialism cannot be defeated by supporting its nauseous doctrines, which is just what Mr. Baldwin and his colleagues are doing now.

ERNEST JAMES.

12, Hawthorn Road,
Wallington, Surrey.**The League and the Chaco War**

SIR,—I see that Mr. Churchill said in Parliament that the League of Nations would "give justice though the heavens fall."

I ask what justice has the League given Paraguay, the small nation, with a standing army of 2,000, which is poor in money and which has been ruthlessly attacked by Bolivia, which was armed to the teeth with foreign capital and armaments from U.S.A. and Europe—England not excepted?

Is it not time for the British to realise that at Geneva, although there are some few who try to do their bit honestly, it is almost impossible to stand up against the intrigue and various "interests of those in power."

In the case of the Chaco War, why did not the special mission, sent out at great expense by the League, expose the truth—the fact that a foreign oil company with oil wells in Bolivia were at the root of the trouble—the name of that Company is voiced publicly in the U.S.A. and South America; that a German Military Commission had worked up the Bolivian army and equipped it with every modern armament; that when that failed a Czechoslovakian Military Mission took over command and that now 60 per cent. of the Bolivian arms come from Czechoslovakia? Why, in the face of these facts was a Czechoslovakian allowed to join the Mission of the League in Montevideo on its way out, and why was the President of the meeting at Geneva on the subject a Czechoslovakian? Surely this would be allowed in no other court of law?

Why, on the decision of this Geneva Court, was Paraguay condemned and Bolivia upheld, arms stopped to Paraguay and allowed into Bolivia via Chile, to slaughter the weaker and innocent people?

What is the meaning of it and where is the justice Mr. Churchill speaks of?

May I add that the Bolivians in the firing line, having so little heart for this war, are giving themselves up in thousands and Paraguay has captured enough war material for at least six months ahead.

VIOLET BOWER.

Bulstrode House, W.1.

[It is a well-known fact that the League of Nations always favours the aggressor and the richer and more powerful side, because it knows perfectly well it is important to deal with it. The League of Nations is the biggest inducement to sabre rattling and aggression in the world to-day.—Ep.]

CORRESPONDENCE

Kerensky's Responsibility

SIR.—I was, from 1912 to October, 1917, Secretary in the Chancery of the Russian Foreign Office. When Prince Lwow's Provisional Government was in power, I also acted as Private Secretary to the Foreign Minister, Mr. Miloukoff.

Having read the interesting article of Miss Muriel Buchanan—"The Foulest Crime in History," I would like to add a few words on "The Truth."

Mr. Miloukoff urged, after the abdication of the Tsar, the immediate accession of his brother, the Grand Duc Michael. Mr. Miloukoff was, therefore, in favour of the departure of the Tsar to Great Britain. The offer of asylum was made by King George V and Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador in Petrograd, took an active part in furthering this project, in order to save the Tsar and his family from a fate which no reasonable person could but foresee. (The Grand Duc Michael, brother of the Tsar was also murdered by the Bolshevik gang).

As far back as the first days of the March Revolution, a self appointed Soviet had been instituted in the famous room Nr. 10 in the Tauride Palace (the Duma Premises) and later in the premises of the Naval Cadet Corps.

"Supervising" The Government

The Soviet consisted of about 98 per cent. of Socialists, amongst whom the Bolshevik section grew from day to day. This Soviet of Petrograd called that of "the Workmen, Soldiers and Peasants" was a self appointed revolutionary body, and had at its head a President (a Georgian Socialist) and two Vice-Presidents—Socialists, of whom one was Mr. Alexander Kerensky.

Kerensky, together with his functions of Vice-President of that Soviet, joined the Provisional Government as Minister of Justice. In many of his public utterances in the press, in speeches at the Soviet meetings, and at those delivered at the meetings of the Provisional Government, he stated that he joined the Provisional Government in the role of a sort of Supervisor on behalf of the revolutionary masses of the Petrograd Soviet, this latter body constantly bringing up attacks on the Provisional Government, denouncing it as a reactionary body of bourgeois interests which needed control and supervision of the "Proletariat."

Actually, with the growth of the power of the Soviets the Provisional Government was losing more and more ground and Kerensky became Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Supreme Commander of the Armies and of the Navy, War, and Navy Minister, etc. Mr. Kerensky, as a Socialist, adhered to the Second International and therefore had strings to pull in that international body as a result of whose efforts the appeal "to follow Russia," which you reproduce on the back cover of the *Saturday Review*, was launched in this country.

He boasted that, as long as he was Minister of Justice, and a sort of supervisor on behalf of the Soviets of the activities of the Provisional Government, his sacred duty to the masses would be to bring to account before a Popular Tribunal the "criminal" activities of the members of the "bloodthirsty" Tsar Regime, including "Colonel Romanov" as he, in a spiteful way, called the former Tsar Nicholas II. He emphasised that as long as he was in the Government (he was then Minister of Justice) he would not shrink or give way. And this is the actual reason, apart from the unhappy fact that the children of the Tsar had measles at that time, that the departure to England of the Tsar family was postponed.

It was most obvious to any unbiased observer in those days, as facts have proved later, that, to use the words of Peter the Great, "loss of time is equal to death." Things were getting out of hand, the Provisional Government was losing more and more ground, giving way to the Soviets and to their leaders of mob-psychology and of low instincts. Time was lost. Kerensky went to interview "Colonel Romanov" at Tsalskoye Selo whilst the

country and Petrograd became more and more in the throes of chaos and mob justice.

This is the cause of the indecision in accepting King George's offer, until the "denouncers" of the Second International of the "Tsarist sins" torpedoed the effort to save the Tsar's family from destruction.

The first act of the Tragedy of Ekaterinburg was started by the Vice-President of the Petrograd Soviet and Minister of "Justice" of the Provisional Government of 1917. The intrigues of the Second International brought about in England such conditions that the offer of your King was frustrated and led to the British Government being forced to put a brake on that most gracious gesture.

Sir George Buchanan, a staunch friend of Russia and of her unfortunate Tsar, was forced "with tears in his eyes" to refrain from pleading for the dispatch of the Tsar and his family to Mourmansk and from where an English cruiser (with the promise of Kaiser Wilhelm to a neutral Power not to torpedo the ship) would bring the unfortunate Tsar's family to this country.

VLADIMIR DE KOROSTOVETZ.

Japanese Competition

SIR.—The request of Mr. John Remer, M.P., in your journal for comparisons of the budgets of British and Japanese workers does not require the expenditure even of a 2½d. stamp.

We can, obviously, set a high value on the extensive study of Japanese competition just made for the Association of British Chambers of Commerce by Professor T. E. Gregory. Professor Gregory points out that the lower standard of living in Eastern countries constitutes no new problem—it existed even when Lancashire swamped the native textile industries of Japan and China. He states :

"Public opinion has become accustomed to seek the explanation of the lower level of unit costs in the abnormal lowness of the standard of life in the East. It is equally consistent with the facts to think of the standard of life as rising, but of efficiency rising still faster. It alters the whole tone of the discussion if we cease to think so exclusively of the superior wage-level here and begin to think more of the changes in Japanese efficiency brought about by the more widespread use of mass production methods. . . ."

Sir Walter Preston has shown that even in the cheap grey material popular in India, Lancashire can hope to beat Japan. The economist in Dr. Gregory, the industrialist in Sir Walter Preston, and an operatives' leader in Mr. James Bell are in substantial agreement.

Mr. Remer's remarks on the cost of re-organising textile industries in Lancashire are negated by an important case revealed by a Manchester Correspondent of the *Financial News*. With the single exception of one vertical group, says this correspondent, price cutting in the rayon trade is rampant. This exception, he adds, shows that an understanding between a vertical group can produce goods capable of competing in any market with goods produced under almost any conditions. The group includes a big yarn producer, several manufacturers, a leading dyeing and finishing group, and a few shippers. By agreement as to costs and profit margins they recently secured an export order for a million yards of cloth in competition with other rayon producing countries, *including Japan*.

To be a defeatist on the question of Britain's power to compete with other nations is to insult the intelligence and enterprise of the men behind such undertakings as these.

G. SLATER BOOTH.

(Hon. Secretary),

The Anglo-Japanese Relations Committee.
76, Chancery Lane, W.C.2.

ALDERSHOT TATTOO

A Pageant of Patriotism

By Major G. H. Reade

ONCE again, in Ascot Week, the Aldershot Tattoo will attract from all parts of the world its many thousands of spectators each night. It is now an established annual military pageant, the like of which has no parallel in this or any other country. For months past—since, indeed, the last Tattoo ended—reservations for seats have been made.

The Army becomes the magnet of attraction because of its wonderful skill and unmatched organisation in presenting a spectacle which fills the onlookers with delight, and produces thrills of devotion and loyalty to King and Empire, which from a moral as well as from a national standpoint are of inestimable value.

Tattoos, as we know them at home, are a post-war product. The name "tattoo" comes from that period when soldiers had no barracks and were billeted on the inhabitants of a town. Then drummers marched through the streets, and the soldiers hearing the drums knew it was the signal to muster at the parade ground for duty.

The present-day Tattoo may be said to be an invitation to the world at large to meet and see the soldiers showing their skill at drill (historical and modern) physical training, marching to music, battle evolutions and historical pageantry of the storied past.

Depicted at night by searchlights such a presentation has scenic advantages that daylight can never give. Its dignity and reality are immensely increased; for it leaves a picture in the mind that cannot easily be erased, a sense of the sublime, a spiritual as well as a material impression, which can be recalled for years to come.

MORE PERFORMANCES ?

That the public appreciate this, the greatest of all military pageants in the land, is proved by the fact that each year sees a larger and more enthusiastic crowd, that the praise for the Tattoo is ever greater and widening, and that the military authorities responsible have been compelled to increase the size of the auditorium until now it is not possible to extend further the accommodation.

The only possible extension would be to increase the number of performances.

Not long ago an agitation arose against the holding of Tattoos. It was part of the insidious campaign of Communistic propaganda which sought to decry everything of a military nature, and was run by people who were plotting for this country to do away with the Navy, Army and Air Force and to leave its shores defenceless. With great adroitness, they complained that soldiers should not be made actors, that the country had no right to pay for its armed troops doing stunts of a theatrical nature, and that if these continued, it

was harmful to the imagination and minds of the younger generation because it presented only the rosy side of a soldier's life and our military history.

Thank goodness that phase of gross hypocrisy and rank unpatriotic sentiment is nearly dissipated. The great body politic of British people have common sense, and they know the deep debt of gratitude that is due to the courage, endurance and self-sacrifice of the three great Defence Forces of the Crown.

Actually, to make the Tattoo the success it is has entailed an immense amount of work, involving a thousand and one details. To run it well requires Staff work of a very high order and of such a nature as to demand the highest powers of organisation and control.

A JOB WELL DONE

Those engaged in carrying out this work are perfecting qualities which would make for success in any time of grave emergency or even during the conduct of operations in war. The organisation of large bodies of troops, the attention to details, the perfect machinery of timing and lighting, the control of crowds of people and tens of thousands of cars, the absolute precision of all movements, the marshalling inwards and outwards of many men and horses, these and countless other items of arrangement have to be carried out without hitch or hindrance.

Every night of the Tattoo no less than 120,000 spectators, 20,000 cars, and 7,000 troops—cavalry, infantry and artillery—converge on the arena at night, and handling them is a big task. I should like to know the civilian organisation that could tackle it half as well as the military authorities do, and with such a display of humanity, humour, good temper and discipline.

The marvel is that all this can be done without neglect of military duties. Men of all ranks who participate are imbued with a sense of self-sacrifice to make the Tattoo a success for the military charities which it supports, as well as with loyalty to the traditions of the Army to present its history and work to the public in the best possible manner.

Remember, no legal military command can be issued at the Tattoo as presented. The whole show is carried out because on all sides there is mutual feeling of common trust and a belief in self-imposed discipline.

The British soldier is in peace, as in war, a self-sacrificing individual. And it is because of this fine spirit that the Tattoo is the great success that it has become.

Let me conclude by saying that the Tattoo is an object lesson of the history of this great Empire. This year it embodies as its chief aspect the loyalty and devotion to the Crown for which the Army has ever been conspicuous.

Air Pacts and the Powers

By Boyd Cable

THE announcement by Hitler of his readiness to consider or discuss terms of an air pact between the Powers has given a fresh incentive to the desires and dreams of our politicians for some form of pact which would limit armaments and—the latest suggestion—the use of air weapons against non-combatants.

I, like any other man who knew the horrors of the last war, would welcome more than eagerly any such pact; but I—again like others who remember the war—feel fearful of this country placing too much reliance on the faithful keeping of pacts of this sort by our enemies.

I know it may sound one-sided or even conceited to say I believe a pact made by us would be honoured by us, but not by some others. Yet this is my honest conviction, and therein, I believe, lies our danger.

If a pact is made for, say, the limitation of our and German air strength, we certainly should keep to it in the spirit as well as the letter. There would probably be only too many here anxious and eager to keep to the exact terms and to believe Germany was doing so; and we should not only keep to the terms of numbers of war machines and personnel, but we should make no attempt to build a powerful fleet of commercial planes capable of swift conversion to war use or to train civilian pilots and personnel for war.

Can we believe that Germany would do the same? I, for one, find it difficult to accept.

THROUGH GERMAN EYES

If we try to see through German eyes the excuses for secretly building up an air force as strong as ours, and admit they may have considered this justified by the refusal of other Powers to reduce their armaments, it is difficult to suppose that if we made fresh pacts now and Germany wished to break them, she would not again find reasons plentiful and plausible enough for doing so.

Therefore, while a great many of us will be glad enough to have these pacts agreed and signed, we only want them on the present basis of the discussions—that they have no effect on our building up our R.A.F. to the declared strength and to the declared further strength, if required, to keep us on parity with any other nation within air-striking distance. So long as this basis is clung to without yielding an inch, no harm, and perhaps some good, may come.

Now Hitler has proposed the "prohibition of gas, inflammable and explosive bombs outside an actual area of warfare." It sounds fine; but just what is "an actual area of warfare"?

In the last war, Germany bombed London at the earliest opportunity, and offered as an excuse for doing so that London was a military objective because it was "fortified." It is true we had the

"fortress" of the Tower of London, but this was about all. We were even without what you could call any pretence of defensive armaments against Zeppis when the first raids came and only after them began to attempt to improvise A.A. defences.

Would London now be considered within "an actual area of warfare" if we retain the present skeleton of inadequate anti-aircraft ground defences? Would or would not railways carrying troops or munitions, or available for carrying them, make London and every other city a military objective? Would an enemy leave Woolwich Arsenal, the docks, the War Office, Admiralty and Air Ministry untouched as being outside an actual war area? I greatly doubt it.

On our side, Sir John Simon has declared for the "outlawry of indiscriminate bombing." Out of those four words there is one that means nothing and can never mean more, and one that requires a good deal of definition.

WORDS MEAN NOTHING

Admitted that Sir John Simon used the word "indiscriminate" without wishing at the moment to define it exactly, and that he certainly can and would do so in the most precise terms at need. He would probably explain it on some such lines as Hitler has done about "actual war area"; but, if so, I'd like to know whether the bridges and bridge-heads of the Rhine would be outside the area if German troops were crossing.

The term "outlawry" seems to me to come within the rule of "hard words break no bones," but nothing more. If we were at war with Germany, neither she nor any other nation would care one straw if we declared her "outlaw" for breaking this or any other pact.

I saw this, remembering how little our "hard names" and "outlawry" troubled the Germans when they invaded Belgium, bombed London, shelled Scarborough and Paris, began the intensive "sink without trace" U-boat warfare which included the torpedoing of plainly-marked Red Cross hospital ships, to say nothing of merchantmen and liners.

Here, then, is our danger in another form. If, for example, it is agreed that London and Berlin should be considered outside a war area and not to be bombed, we should probably accept that as an excellent reason for scrapping even such weak anti-aircraft defences as we have round London. Could we believe the same would apply to Berlin?

Up to now we have been told plainly that the present tentative suggestions of pacts will not affect the plans for R.A.F. expansion. Our only real safety is in sticking to that excellent view. The old motto, "Trust in God, but keep your powder dry," is more sound than ever, even if modernised to "Trust in pacts, but keep your R.A.F. ready."

THE British Indian Empire was founded by the enterprise of British traders; it began with the Charter of Queen Elizabeth to the East India Company in December 1600. That great corporation developed British trade to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and India, and in doing so established and maintained order and security all over the sub-continent till the Sovereignty of British India was taken over by the Crown in 1858.

From then up to the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919, India was our greatest market, especially for Lancashire goods, while this country purchased a steadily increasing amount of the raw materials, cotton, grain, hides and skins, tea, jute, etc., which India produces. The trade between both countries had risen to about £200 millions, giving employment to millions of workers here and in India, and the immense volume of imports and exports was protected by the British Navy, maintained at the sole cost of the British taxpayer.

FAREWELL—FAIRPLAY

Such was the position as long as our trade was given fair play in the Indian market. That fair play is no longer conceded. Mainly as a result of giving Indian politicians power to raise tariff barriers against us, and of allowing the boycott of British goods to be enforced by intimidation paid for by Indian rival manufacturers—who want to exclude British competition so as to sell their own inferior goods at their own prices—the volume of trade has since 1924 fallen by nearly two-thirds.

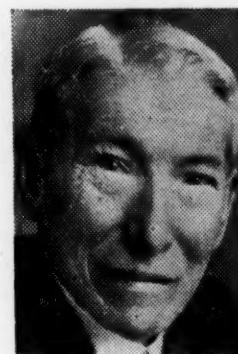
In 1924, Lancashire exported 1,641,000,000 yards of piece goods to India; in 1934 the exports had dropped to 582,000,000 yards. In 1924 our total exports were £90 millions; in 1934 they had dropped to £36½ millions, with the result that hundreds of thousands of unemployed are walking the streets of Lancashire, while the Indian peasant (90 per cent. of the population) is compelled to pay a higher price for an inferior article.

When that small but valiant band of Conservative M.P.'s—notably the Duchess of Atholl, Mr. Churchill and Sir Henry Page-Croft—strenuously endeavoured during the debates on the India Bill, to remedy this monstrous injustice, the Government, which is supposed to protect British interests—as well as those of the Indian consumer—turn a deaf ear to their arguments and vote down their reasoned amendments with the help of a docile majority, who are rounded up by the Whips when the division-bell rings just as a well-trained sheep-dog rounds up his flock of sheep.

Sir Samuel Hoare has met every argument either (a) by quoting the Fiscal Convention of 1919, which he wrongly interprets as debarring the British Government from any interference with or protest against the malicious attacks of hostile Indian politicians, or (b) by trotting out the familiar platitude that the only security for British trade is Indian "good will."

STRANGLING

That was the argument used by Sir Austen Chamberlain fifteen years ago when Lancashire first protested against the Indian Government imposing a tariff of 4 per cent. Lancashire, not realising that this was the thin end of the wedge, acquiesced. Since then the tariff has been raised, on the pretext that this is necessary for revenue



— By —

**SIR MICHAEL
F. O'DWYER**

purposes, by successive stages to 25 per cent., and on certain goods to nearly 50 per cent.!

Where is the "good will?" It certainly exists among the Indian consumers, the helpless non-vocal masses who, in this as in other matters, are of no account with our politicians. The latter shut their eyes to the fact that the policy of the dominant Congress party is to strangle British trade both in and with India.

The Indian Government was a party to the Ottawa Conference which accepted the principle of Imperial preference, under which solid advantages

When We Shouldered t

(Written by Sir John Malcolm in 1818, while settling t

"I wish I had you here for a week to show you my ryots. My room is a thoroughfare from morning to night, even chobdars, but *char derwazah kolah* (four doors open) may learn what our principles are at the fountain-head. My own expectations; but the labour of public duty in bearing, and I believe I shall be grateful to the Directors for being that sees how it is passed can envy. You will see the scene. Suffice it to say, that, from the highest ruler to the city to the shed in the deepest recess in the mountain, come and a familiar guest and is as much pleased, than with the latter as at the fine durbars and the sumptuous

"... No business, however urgent, and no means of instant access of any human being, however humble the moment or at an hour appointed by myself. First I hazard by leaving applications to the common route of chobdars and hurkarahs. I employ all these; but there a ryot pronounces my name, with the expression of a curiosity or business."

G BRITISH TRADE with INDIA

have admittedly accrued to Indian trade with all parts of the Empire. But the all-India Legislative Assembly on 30th January, passed a resolution by a large majority denouncing the Ottawa Convention and the British India trade agreement because it gave some semblance of fair-play to British trade.

ILLUSORY SAFEGUARDS

These are the people who, under the India Bill, will be given full control of the Indian tariff policy, subject to some vague safeguards against penal discrimination, which will prove quite illusory in actual working. As an instance, Burma *after separation from India is to admit Indian goods free but maintain the Indian tariff (25 per cent. or more) against British goods.* And yet we have recently admitted Indian goods free entry to all British Colonies! Was there ever a more flagrant instance of surrendering our rights gratuitously?

Lancashire, with the aid of Lord Derby, is now making a desperate eleventh-hour attempt to save the Burma trade from the wreck; but there is little hope from the present Secretary of State and House of Commons. Sir Samuel Hoare blandly repeats "rely on Indian goodwill."

dered the Responsibility

(*Settling the Mahratta States after the Mahratta wars.*)

show you my nabobs, rajahs, Bheel chiefs, potails and
erning to night. No moonshees, dewans, dubashes, or
ur doors open), that the inhabitants of these countries
taint-head. My success has been great, beyond even
ic duty in the way I take it is more than any man can
e Directors for relieving me from a life that no human
You will hear from others that have lately quitted the
est ruler to the lowest robber, from the palace in the
mountain forest, your friend, Malcolm Sahib, is a wel-
ased, thank God, with firing arrows and eating roots
e sumptuous feasts of the former.

nd no meal, however hungry I am, is allowed to prevent
ever humble. He is heard and answered, either at the
First impressions are of too much importance to be
mon routine of moonshees, mootasorrees, jemadars,
se; but they step aside when any one from a rajah to
ession of a wish to see me either from a motive of respect,

The Fiscal Convention on which he relies as having given India "fiscal autonomy" has given nothing of the kind. Enquiry from the India Office establishes that there is no written agreement, and that the only basis is a paragraph (33) in the report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee of 1919, which of itself has no legal force or validity. As repeatedly pointed out by the Duchess of Atholl in the Indian debates, the Joint Committee of 1919 did *not* propose to give India fiscal autonomy—as Sir Samuel Hoare argues—because, as they stated, that could not be done "*without limiting the ultimate power of Parliament to control the administration of India and without limiting the power of veto which rests in the Crown.*" They never used the word "autonomy" and never contemplated it.

Their final "opinion" was "that the Secretary of State should as far as possible avoid interference on this subject (tariffs) when the Government of India and its Legislature are in agreement, and they think that his intervention, when it does take place, should be limited to safeguarding the international obligations of the Empire, or any fiscal arrangements within the Empire to which His Majesty's Government is a party."

Thus, as pointed out by the Simon Commission (para. 267), under the so-called Convention of 1919, the Secretary of State has clearly defined powers of interference, even when the Government of India and the Legislature are in agreement, to protect British or Imperial interests. Mr. Churchill brought this out in the debate of February 11th when he said, "It (the Fiscal Convention) does not confer fiscal autonomy upon India or upon the Government of India; it does not transfer British sovereignty to an external body." Mr. Baldwin, who followed Mr. Churchill, did not attempt to meet his arguments; nor did the Secretary of State or the Attorney-General deal with the similar arguments put forward in Committee by the Duchess of Atholl on April 11th and April 29th.

Sir Samuel Hoare in introducing the India Bill (*Hansard*, 6th February, Col. 1163) assured the House that "Our intention is substantially to continue the same fiscal autonomy that has existed in India for the last fourteen years." His use of the word *autonomy*, as shown above, was totally unjustified and must have misled many Members, as it suggested that any interference would be a breach of faith. But since then he has gone much further (and British interests have fared much worse) for on 23rd May, he summarily rejected Sir Henry Page Croft's mild proposal that British goods should have at least *equal* treatment with foreign goods. Evidently British trade is merely a pawn in the political game.

The Bill, in its present form, abolishes the Fiscal Convention of 1919 with its limitations, and grants full control to an Indian Legislature, which from all indications, will use that power to strangle what is still left of that great volume of trade, built up by our traders, protected by our Navy and so beneficial alike to India and Great Britain.

The Government have stolen a march on the Commons, but fortunately the Bill has still to go through the House of Lords.

RACING

Don't Bet from Memory

By David Learmonth

THE backer who hopes for consistent success—an optimistic hope—must be methodical.

He should record every bet he makes, entering the racecourse, date, name of horse, distance, odds obtained, and result. There should be two cash columns. In one losing bets are entered, in the other winning bets are recorded. This may sound elementary advice; but my experience has been that such a record is by no means always kept. In fact, I doubt if fifty per cent. of backers know whether they are up or down at the end of a season.

But the follower of racing should do more than this. In a separate note-book he should record any information which comes his way. This may be from his own observation, from what he is told, or from what he reads in the newspapers. He will soon have a very valuable addition to the ordinary form book.

An address book is best for the purpose, as it will be easy to look up an animal which is entered alphabetically. Let us see how the book should be used.

The race in question is a mile and a quarter affair at Newbury. Strictly on the form book, Table should win. But there are other animals which appear to be fancied; so we turn to our note-book to see if we have any information about them.

Points to Note

The first horse we investigate is Chair, and we learn that at Lingfield, over a mile, he finished fourth after beginning slowly and that Mr. X, a competent racing journalist, wrote that he was travelling faster than the winner at the finish and would be suited by a longer distance.

This is quite enough to make us realise that Chair must be dangerous, although Lingfield is a very much easier course than Newbury. We find that Table is not unfairly weighted, and so we make a note of him and proceed to the next horse, Stool.

Stool, we find, was third when fancied at Chester, after having been drawn on the extreme outside of a field of fourteen. He was also hampered when the jockey sought an opening. The distance was a mile and a quarter. We look up the actual book form and decide that, when due allowance has been made for this ill-luck at Chester, the animal must be considered very dangerous.

The next horse, Sofa, has excellent book form, having run Table to a head at level weights. But, on referring to our note-book, we find that Mr. X was of the opinion that Table would have been better suited by a severer course. We may, therefore, assume that Table will beat Sofa again by a wider margin.

Having boiled the race down to these three runners—Table, Chair and Stool—we must rely

upon our judgment. Of course, one must not expect to be able to make notes about every animal that runs; but a careful tabulation of information will prove useful many times during the season.

Other information which must go into your note-book is the names of owners who like to win on certain courses. A horse belonging to a local owner will often start at an unfairly short price; but backers must also remember that this owner has very likely set his heart on winning at his home meeting and that the horse has been specially kept for the purpose. Owners, as well as trainers, have their characteristics.

Backers will be wise to study this aspect of racing. Worked in conjunction with other information at one's disposal, it can be very valuable. Some papers publish a list of owners for courses as well as horses for courses.

Then there are the broader characteristics. Some stables specialise in selling races, others would never deign to descend to such an undignified class of event.

Exiled for Life

A little peep behind the scenes here may interest readers. They may well wonder what happens to those horses in certain proud stables which do not reach the required standard. In most cases they are sold to go abroad with the strict condition that they shall never be raced in England. The eminent head of the great establishment will run no risk of a lesser one winning races with an animal with which he himself has failed. If the owner does not like this arrangement he can take his horses elsewhere.

Some stables have a good many animals ready early; others seldom get into their stride much before Ascot. There are, of course, the intermediate stables which have some horses ready early and others late, according to the material they have to work on. This must apply everywhere; there can be no hard and fast rule.

But, particularly in the case of two-year-olds, one can form a few definite opinions. One seldom expects to see a youngster from Manton doing much before Ascot. On the other hand, Harry Cottrill generally has one or two ready early and Stanly Wootton is usually quick off the mark. It must be remembered, however, that these early two-year-olds are seldom the high-class ones of the stable.

In the intermediate class, Fred Darling usually releases one or two good ones at the Salisbury May meeting and frequently carries off the Champagne Stakes at the Bibury Club meeting in July. All these characteristics should be noted. One never knows when they will come in useful.

BRITISH LEGION

A Chance for Action

By a Special Correspondent

DELEGATES attending the 1935 Conference in London next Sunday and Monday have a special responsibility. Since last August a series of articles have appeared in the *Saturday Review* which have contained specific and definite accusations against Legion administration, backed by evidence from H.Q. documents, letters from officials and personal experiences.

No adequate reply has come from Haig House. There has been abuse in plenty, both of the *Saturday Review* and of all those who have dared to criticise the administration, but in no single case have the statements made been disproved.

These articles have been written in no spirit of hostility to the Legion. The very reverse has been the case—genuine regret that an organisation which in conception is so excellent and which potentially is capable of such great influence for good is made relatively ineffective by faults of administration, is paralysed by officials and is likely to lose the respect of the public by grossly extravagant expenditure.

It is obvious that when an organisation, backed by all the advantages which the Legion possesses, can only muster 343,000 out of a possible four million members, something must be wrong.

No Mere Quibbles

The charges made against Haig House have been no mere quibbles; they are grave indictments vitally affecting the very roots of Legion administration.

(1) First and foremost is the astounding subservience to Whitehall which renders the Legion impotent as a constitutional factor in the political arena, only within which can reform be obtained.

One can instance (a) the humiliating apology offered to the Minister of Pensions because an article in the Legion Journal had dared to assert our rights and criticise his Department—an article endorsed by Conference in 1933; (b) the refusal of officials to write to M.P.'s on the exclusion of wound pensions from the Means Test before they obtained permission from the Minister of Labour! *If further proof be required I have before me a galley proof of the Legion Journal actually submitted to the Minister of Pensions for his concurrence before publication, which bears under the signature of a private secretary, "The Minister has seen, and subject to these corrections approves"!*

(2) Enormous administrative expenses and extravagant salaries. The last accounts showed total expenses, including those for the Officers' Association, Women's Section, cost of poppies, etc., of nearly £200,000. And £28,000 of Poppy Day money—collected for the relief of distress—was used for the general expenses of the Legion. Salaries of £2,000 and £1,000 per annum are paid

to officials (in addition to travelling expenses), while underdogs who do the donkey work are miserably underpaid; 23 are shown as getting less than £3 per week, 13 less than £2, while the minimum salary is less than £1 per week! Why not obtain qualified men (and there are plenty) who would gladly do the more responsible work for a reasonable allowance in the spirit of "Service not Self" and give the underdogs a decent wage?

(3) Money mystery. (a) Legal expenses to avert a libel action were paid from the "Chairman's Fund." The official *excuse* is that this is money given to Earl Haig for special purposes. The fact is that this money was long ago exhausted, and year by year since it has been replenished from Poppy Day funds. (b) A paid official went by car from London to Wales, and chartered an aeroplane to return the same day. Presumably the car came back empty.

Inaction

(4) Consistent flouting of resolutions passed by Conference. What has been done to comply with No. 88 on last year's Agenda demanding "a more aggressive policy" and "all forms of political but non-party action"? Absolutely nothing. What of resolution No. 89 calling for urgent action on behalf of the unfortunate Victorian settlers? A farcical deputation, when the settlers themselves were given no chance to speak! Yet "action taken" claims that as a result an *ex gratia* payment was made. The truth is that the payment (and an utterly inadequate one) was announced *before the deputation was received*! What of the resolution which forbade any paid posts to be given to non-members? Yet Mr. Carroll, the late editor, frankly admitted he had never been a member when he was appointed. The fact that by brilliant conduct of the Journal he made it a revenue producer for the first time in its history does not excuse the unconstitutional act of the officials responsible.

(5) Secrecy. Sir Frederick Maurice has said "there are no secrets in the Legion." Then why not disclose the ex-Service qualifications of paid officials, as candidates for honorary office have to disclose theirs? Why are officials who leave the service of the Legion often compelled to sign undertakings not to disclose their knowledge? What disclosures does Haig House fear? The cases of Capt. Roderick and Mr. Carroll provide instances of this action.

Finally, Major Featherstone Godley has admitted in writing that there is a good deal of truth in charges made but that "vested interests" hinder reform!

What an admission from the National Chairman!

It is up to the delegates to face their responsibilities and clear up these abuses. Will they?

THEATRE NOTES

"Someone at the Door"

New Theatre

By Dorothy and Campbell Christie.

ATHRILLER which does not take itself seriously is a rare bird, and one which should be carefully preserved lest the species become extinct.

There is a good deal of truth in the theory that one way of making money is to be arrested on a charge of murder, duly acquitted and subsequently employed by the sensational press at a hundred guineas a thousand to write one's life story, and Ronnie Martin and Bill Reid in this diverting play proceeded to put the theory into practice. The fact that real Murder with a capital M stalked across their path somewhat upset their calculations but added considerably to the enjoyment of at least one member of the audience.

Henry Kendall is at his best in this light comedy vein and has chosen an excellent vehicle for his return to the London stage. William Fox and Nancy O'Neil were able accomplices, while Dennis Wyndham and Frank Petley supplied the necessary villainy. Both authors and actors are indebted to Mr. Reginald Tate for a production which, while emphasising the humour, did not forget the thrills.

"This Desirable Residence"

Embassy Theatre

By A. R. Rawlinson.

IT is never easy to sustain the interest in a play which starts off in the present day and then proceeds to describe the events which led up to the situation with which the play opened.

It was no doubt a shock to Mary Penshott to discover that the purchaser of her home, who intended to pull it down and erect cheap villas, was the son of her former sweetheart, but the subsequent recital of Mary's unfortunate love-affair with the elder Tramley did not excite us very much and merely succeeded in telling us what we had already guessed. Mr. Rawlinson's play seemed to me to be one which had been carefully thought out rather than a product of the imagination.

At least it gave us the opportunity to see that fine actor, Frederick Leister, showing us what a Victorian father "doing his duty" must have been like as well as to enjoy some excellent acting by Margaret Emden, Carol Brown, Harold Scott, Nadine March and May Agate. John Fernald produced.

"The Golden Arrow"

Whitehall Theatre

By Sylvia Thompson and Victor Cunard.

THE authors have succeeded in filling this three-act comedy with more witty and sparkling dialogue than I have heard in one evening for a very long time. It should, it is true, follow the film practice and be marked with a large "A," but with such excellent artists as Helen Haye, Cecil Parker, Denys Blakelock, Laurence Olivier, Nan Munro and Greer Garson in the cast, no offence could possibly be taken.

The production by Laurence Olivier and the scenery by Peter Luling were admirable.

Shawn and his Men Dancers His Majesty's Theatre

IT may be true that in ancient times and among primitive peoples dancing was almost entirely done by men (*vide* advertising pamphlet), but I can well understand women taking a hand in this art if it was in those days as boring as the exhibition given by Shawn and his ensemble of men dancers.

As a display of physical exercises it was excellent, but without the aid of the usual gymnasium apparatus there was nothing to break the monotony. The "Ensemble" were splendid specimens of young manhood and, as they were trained entirely by Shawn, I would suggest that as a teacher the latter is admirable but as a performer he should take a back seat or preferably, to me at any rate, no seat at all. Jess Meeker at the piano was not my idea of a musician. Occasional wrong notes are forgivable, but melody and rhythm seemed to be forgotten in his attempt to keep up with the dancers.

"Rossetti"

Arts Theatre Club

By Herbert de Hamel and R. L. Megroz.

IDO not wish to enter the controversy which this play has aroused. To me a play is a play whether it is about historical characters or about fictions of the imagination, and it is as a play that it must be judged. I must therefore say that I do not consider the play written by Messrs. de Hamel and Megroz to be, as such, a very exciting contribution to the British drama. The fact that it deals with the life of a person who actually lived is, to me, beside the point.

As for the acting, Peter Glenville will not, I am sure, take it amiss if I say that as yet he lacks the experience to tackle parts of this calibre. A couple of years in a repertory theatre would do him a world of good. Other promising young actors have undergone the same penance and survived. Leslie French indulged in his usual pastime of standing out head and shoulders above the rest of the cast, and Elizabeth Maude and Dorothy Black were second only to him.

"A Family Man"

Playhouse

By John Galsworthy.

FOR one dreadful moment I thought that Leon M. Lion was going to present this play as a farce. He allowed Edgar K. Bruce to assume a comic make-up and play for laughs, and presumably encouraged Wilfred Lawson as John Builder, M.P., to spoil an otherwise excellent performance by over-emphasis. Fortunately the play itself took charge in the trial scene and continued to dominate the audience—and the producer—until the final curtain.

One would have expected the wife of John Builder to have a more strongly marked personality than was given her by Ann Codrington, but again, since this John Builder was not in my opinion Galsworthy's John Builder, I must not blame Miss Codrington. Yvonne Rorie was especially good as John's younger daughter, Eliot Makeham butted as only he can butt, and Ivy Tresmand proved that she can exercise her charms as easily on the legitimate stage as she can in musical comedy.

C.S.

New Books I can Recommend

By the LITERARY CRITIC

WHILE the pair of falcons who in the 'sixties nested in the dome of St. Paul's and "harried the London pigeons like buccaneers" have furnished Mr. Wentworth Day with a title for his latest book, they are but one item in the fascinating list of curiosities he offers the readers of his natural and sporting history of London.

There is, in fact, no lack of variety in Mr. Day's chronicle of birds, beasts and man, and, whatever he may be writing about at the moment—game birds that have been known to cannon into old gentlemen's waistcoats in the centre of London, the old Kensington racecourse, the Thames as a "bridle-way" for migratory birds, the last dozen of London's old cabbies, the "Hermit of Mill Hill," who lived under sacking in an old ditch for half a century, the hereditary members of the ancient craft of rat-catching, or Mrs. Langtry's ill-omened peacock—he has always something unexpected and interesting to tell us.

Our Weakness in the Air

General Groves through his book, "Behind the Smoke-Screen," was largely responsible for rousing public agitation against the "National" Government's disgraceful neglect of Britain's air defences.

His new book, "Our Future in the Air" (Harrap, 2s. 6d.), should serve to bring home to the public the inadequacy of the Government's latest emergency measures.

The truth is, as he shows, there is urgent need for far more drastic steps than the Government contemplates if we are to prevent ourselves from being "outclassed beyond the possibility of recovery." The proposals he makes are:

A supplementary vote of £20,000,000 for air defence.

The preparation of a nation-wide scheme for aerial expansion. This should aim to achieve as quickly as possible parity with the strongest Air Power within striking distance of this country.

The creation of regular air squadrons should be speeded up . . . and the scheme should give priority to the expansion of territorial and auxiliary Air Forces.

The plan should cater for industrial decentralisation, especially of our aircraft industry (for greater protection against air attack). Equally important is it to ensure that our national system of air bases—those which exist as well as the large number which must be created—shall conform with the actual requirements of present-day war. (Aerodromes as far as possible from a potential enemy, with hangars and workshops situated underground).

The speediest possible re-equipment of the Royal Air Force with up-to-date machines.

As regards commercial aviation, which, as General Groves points out, acts as a reserve of a military air force in time of war, we have also a considerable leeway to make up—thanks again to lack of foresight on the part of the Government. And, not only are we behindhand both in number of aircraft available and in the training of pilots, but unhappily "Great Britain alone has dis-

counted the military significance of commercial flying. In the design and construction of her air transport machines possible military serviceability has been entirely ignored."

An Old Broncho Buster

"Better even than 'Trader Horn'" is the comment that suggests itself for Miss Shaw Erskine's delightful life story of Broncho Charlie Miller.

Born in 1850, in a covered wagon, and still going strong in the present year of grace, this old broncho buster rode for the original pony mail at the age of eleven, fought Indians, was "quick on the draw," and packed his guns low in the true old Western style. He joined the British Army at the age of 66 and fought in the Great War. At 82 he rode on one horse from New York to San Francisco.

He was a friend of Theodore Roosevelt and many other American notabilities, and came over to England with Buffalo Bill's famous Circus in 1887, taking part in the six days' race of cowboys *versus* penny farthing cyclists.

Norway's Antarctic Claims

Lars Christensen made three expeditions to the Antarctic, in 1930-31, 1932-33, 1933-34, and in his book, of which Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton have just published an English translation, he gives us the story of his various experiences and discoveries.

The expeditions were primarily concerned with the rehabilitation and strengthening of the Norwegian whaling industry, with which Lars Christensen has a long family connection.

One serious obstacle which he notes to the realisation of Norwegian ambitions is the question of disputed ownership of certain Antarctic regions:

"I am absolutely in favour of an Antarctic entente cordiale founded upon reciprocity. But I may state that there is not much left to us of all our discoveries. It is perfectly natural and comprehensible that Australia and New Zealand, which actually lie geographically nearer to Antarctica than we do, should have a strong desire to own a part of it. But, looked at commercially and practically, no one is more closely bound up with it than we are in Norway."

"Our claim ought, at any rate, to include the whole of the Norwegian mainland i.e., the Bouvet sector from 50 E. to 15 W. I think we should also be able to reserve a sector between 60 E. and 75 E. And, finally, we might reasonably claim that the region round Peter I. Island, which is Norwegian, in a sector from 80 to 100 W. should be allotted to Norway."

The Assassination of Dolfuss

"The Death of Dolfuss," published by Messrs. Denis Archer, is an Austrian official history of the Nazi Revolt in July, 1934, when the Austrian Chancellor Dr. Dolfuss was assassinated. The author is the Federal Commissioner for Auxiliary Defence Forces, who in his preface declares that the history has been compiled, not to revive memories, but "in the hope that a frank exposition of the facts will be most conducive to future reconciliation."

That pious hope is perhaps a trifle optimistic in view of the frankness with which it is contended that the "National Socialist Movement in Austria could never have attained either such importance or such dimensions as it did, but for the fact that it received moral and material

support on an extreme scale from the German Reich."

According to the story here given the murderers of the diminutive little statesman treated him, while he was still alive and suffering, with the utmost brutality.

"For nearly two and three-quarter hours he lay suffering, and during the whole of that time his murderers refused to allow him a priest or a doctor. The persistent refusal of the services of a priest was particularly brutal, as the rebels must have been only too well aware of the Chancellor's deep religious feeling. The fact that medical attendance was denied him is conclusive proof that his assassination was part of their plan."

In a German Concentration Camp

Herr Wolfgang Langhoff has been an actor since the age of seventeen, and as he claims to be also an "Aryan" there might appear to be little reason for his sudden arrest and thirteen months' internment in a German concentration camp.

However, early on in his story of his unpleasant experiences he admits that he had been engaged in certain sociological activities which "had been the cause of frequent attacks on me by the National Socialists," and it was presumably on account of these activities that he was arrested and imprisoned—immediately after the Reichstag fire—though no charge was made against him at the time nor any reason offered for his subsequent release.

Latest Novels

Mr. Ernest Raymond and Mr. Gerald Bullett both have murder trials for their main incident, but whereas Mr. Bullett uses this as a means of presenting us with a series of vivid portraits of all concerned in the trial, Mr. Raymond is more intent on keeping his readers' interest riveted on the characters of his hero and of the girl he loves. "We the Accused" is one of the best novels I have read this season; it is certainly Mr. Raymond's best book. Everyone interested in children will enjoy "Little Orvie," while Mr. Victor Canning provides plenty of entertainment in his story of "Polycarp's Progress."

The thrillers, listed below, are all of a high standard of merit. One would particularly mention "The Sorting Van Murder" and "Head of a Girl."

SELECTED LIST OF BOOKS

Biography: "Broncho Charlie," by Gladys Shaw Erskine (Harrap, illustrated, 8s. 6d.); "Recollections of a Geographer," by E. A. Reeves (illustrated, with an introduction by Sir Francis Younghusband, Seeley Service, 8s. 6d.).

Aviation: "Our Future in the Air," by Brigadier-General Groves (Harrap, 2s. 6d.).

Foreign Affairs: "The Death of Dollfuss" (story of the Revolt of July, 1934, from official Austrian sources), translated by Johann Messinger (Denis Archer, illustrated, 10s. 6d.); "Rubber Truncheon," by Wolfgang Langhoff (illustrated by Lilo Linke, Constable, 7s. 6d.); "Terror in the Balkans," by Albert Londres (translated by L. Zarine, Constable, 7s. 6d.), the story of the Balkan terrorist organisation "Imro."

Exploration and Travel: "Such is the Antarctic," by Lars Christensen, translated by E. M. G. Jayne (Hodder and Stoughton, with 45 illustrations in gravure and maps, 16s.); "Tramp Royal in Spain," by Matt Marshall (Blackwood, 6s.); "Little Wheels" (A trip across Australia in a baby Austin (John Lane the Bodley Head, with 10 illustrations and sketch map, 5s.).

Sporting: "A Falcon on St. Paul's" (a record of London's sporting and natural history), by J. Wentworth Day (with 38 illustrations, Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.); "The Angler's Week-end Book" by Eric Taverne and John Moore (with wood-cuts by Margot Hammond, Seeley Service, 8s. 6d.).

General: "The Two Roads of Papua," by Evelyn Cheesman (Jarrold, illustrated, 18s.); "Insurance Racketeers" (story of various methods employed by American criminals in frauds on insurance companies), by Gordon Fellowes (Allen and Unwin, illustrated, 3s. 6d.); "On The Hooghly," by Malcolm Hamilton Beattie (Philip Allan with illustrations by the author, 10s. 6d.); "Fire Down Below" (the story of the loss of the "Cartsburn" Clipper), by W. M. Watt (Muller, with drawings by Rowland Hilder, 5s.).

FICTION

"We the Accused," by Ernest Raymond (Cassell, 8s. 6d.); "Little Orvie," by Booth Tarkington (Heinemann); "Polycarp's Progress," by Victor Canning (Hodder and Stoughton); "The Jury," by Gerald Bullett (Dent); "The Ninas of Balcarce," by Hermine Hallam-Hipwell (Baroness Vivenot) (Denis Archer); "The Royalists," by Karl Federn (translated by Eric Sutton, Secker); "Week in Eden," by D. M. Locke (Grayson); "School Tie," by Ian Miller (Newnes); "Witch Wife," by Anne Carteret (Hurst and Blackett); "The Harvest of Years," by Howard Gordon Page (Thornton Butterworth); "Vestal Virgin," by Arthur Meeker, Jnr. (Stanley Paul); "Men Are Kind," by D. H. Landels (Stanley Paul); "They Chose to be Birds," by Geoffrey Dearmer (Heinemann); "Country Holiday" by Frances Woodhouse (Allen and Unwin); "Trouble Brewing," by Joan Butler (Stanley Paul); "Jungle Leech," by H. C. Asterley (Jarrold); "Happy Rest," by Janet Lynn (Denis Archer); "The Tyranny of Freedom," by E. W. Savi (Hurst and Blackett).

Adventure Crime and Mystery: "The Sorting Van Murder," by Mander Ross (Melrose); "Head of a Girl," by Eimar O'Duffy (Bles); "The Unseen Witness," by Ben Bolt (Ward, Lock and Co., 3s. 6d.); "The Second Shot," by Lee Thayer (Hurst and Blackett); "Death Follows The Trail," by Michael Poole (Melrose); "The Mystery of the Golden Wings," by Rosa and Dudley Lambert (Nelson); "The Capsule Mystery," by E. Charles Vivian (Ward, Lock and Co., 3s. 6d.); "Tragedy in the Dark," by Elaine Hamilton (Ward, Lock and Co.); "Death Treads," by Cecil M. Wills (Heritage); "Fifty-Fifty," by Gordon Volk (Skeffington); "Pirates of Venus," by Edgar Rice Burroughs (Lane the Bodley Head); "Murder in Bermuda," by Willoughby Sharp (Eyre and Spottiswoode); "Murder in Black," by Francis D. Grierson (Thornton Butterworth); "As Strange a Maze," by Florence Leighton (Denis Archer).

All the Novels 7s. 6d., except where otherwise stated.

Children's Books: "Warrigal" (the story of a wild horse) by James M. Downie (illustrated in colour and line by author, Hutchinson, 3s. 6d.); "Pot 'erbs and Penelope," by L. M. Harper (illustrated in colour and line by author, Hutchinson, 3s. 6d.); "North After Seals," by Thames Williamson (story of life in Newfoundland sailing fleet) (Routledge, illustrated, 6s.); "Yes, Cousin Joseph," by Frances Joyce (illustrated by Janet Green, Methuen, 5s.).

DARLINGTON'S HANDBOOKS

"Nothing better could be wished for."—British Weekly.

2/- Edinburgh & Environs	2/- Harrogate, York, Ripon
2/- The Severn Valley	2/- The Wye Valley
2/- North Wales Coast	2/- Isle of Wight
2/- Buxton and the Peak	2/- Llandudno & Colwyn Bay
2/- Chester & Llangollen Valley	2/- Llandrindod Wells & Builth
2/- Aberystwyth & Barmouth	2/- Brighton & the S. Coast
2/- Bristol, Bath & Wells	2/- Plymouth & Exeter
2/- Ilfrac'me, Lynton, Clovelly	2/- Torquay & Paignton
2/- Lausanne, Geneva, Vevey, Montreux, Territet	2/-
2/- Berne, Bernese Oberl'd	2/- The Lake of Geneva
2/- Lucerne & Interlaken	2/- Rhone Y'l'y & Zermatt
2/- The French Riviera	2/- The Italian Riviera
2/- Paris, Lyons, Rhone Valley	Chamonix and Environs
2/- Zurich & the Engadine	2/- St. Moritz, Davos, Pontresina
2/6 Motor-car Roadbook and the Hotels of the World	2/6

LLANGOLLEN: DARLINGTON & CO.
LONDON: FOYLE'S, Charing Cross Road.

LECTURES by Ralph Darlington, F.R.G.S. on Egypt, Greece, Palestine, The Upper Nile, Rhodesia, Kenya and Equatorial Africa.
R. Darlington, Llangollen.

THE EMPIRE WEEK BY WEEK

Australia and Foreign Affairs

By Geoffrey Tebbutt.

AUSTRALIA is taking—or is being obliged to take a closer interest in foreign affairs, and one of the results of the Commonwealth delegation's visit to London may be still further to increase her concern for political developments outside the Empire.

The Australian Ministers have been in London at a period of critical British decisions on foreign policy, and the frequent meetings in Whitehall lately have done more than despatches could do to provide first-hand information for the Dominions.

It will have been noticed that Mr. R. G. Menzies, K.C., the Attorney-General, has always been present with the Prime Minister, Mr. Lyons, or acted as his representative on these occasions.

To English eyes, it may appear strange that the Attorney-General should also be handling foreign affairs. But, in Australia the Attorney-General always is one of the leading members of the Cabinet, whereas he is not necessarily in Britain in the inner circle of the Government.

While Mr. Menzies is not Minister for External Affairs, there has been some indication that Mr. Lyons, in providing his most promising Minister with the present opportunity to broaden his experience, may be anticipating the day when he is offered that portfolio.

Mr. Menzies' predecessor, Sir John Latham, combined the offices of Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs.

The day must be approaching when External Affairs will be reckoned by the Commonwealth Cabinet to be a full-time post for an outstanding member of the Cabinet.

Theoretically, Mr. Menzies came to London for a private case before the Privy Council. In practice, he has been one of the "key men" of the Commonwealth delegation. He will now remain here after the Prime Minister's return to lead the Australian delegation at the Empire Parliamentary Association's conference, at which no Federal Minister would otherwise have been present.

The opportunities which have come to Mr. Menzies in these momentous months of 1935 may have an important influence upon his political career. At forty, he has gone a long way in a short time. He thinks lucidly and in large terms. He is a man of a world rather larger than is sometimes conceived from the confines of Canberra.

No Australian politician of the younger generation is likely to create wider interest than he in the next few years.

Empire Diary

June 8—*The King and Queen drive to West London.*

Dinner: Roger Monk bequest dinner in connection with the King's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

June 9-15—*Imperial Institute Cinema Film Displays: Canada, Life with the Hudson's Bay Co.; Bermuda (Colour film), Hawkes Bay — Hamilton Harbour—Beach scenes, diving, yachting—Magic caves; West Indies, "The Sugar Harvest," "Cocoa Plantation"; British Guiana, Demerara—Sugar, rice and coconut industries—Market scenes, Sea defences—Irrigation. Lecture on Thursday, June 13th, at 2.30, "The Growth of the Cocoa Industry" (Gold Coast).*

June 10—*Whit Monday. Nottingham and Notts Historical Pageant opens at Wollaton Park, Notts.*

Dr. Richard Roberts, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, who represented his Church at the Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, has returned to Canada for the celebration on June 10 of the Union of Free Churches in Canada.

June 12—*The Duke and Duchess of Kent at Ball in aid of the Hertford British Hospital, Paris, the Lorchester.*

"May Week," Cambridge (ends June 15th).

Dinner: East Africa Club, Savoy Hotel. The Cricket Ball in aid of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Grosvenor House.

June 13—*The King and Queen give a State Ball at Buckingham Palace.*

June 13, 14, 15 and 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22—*Silver Jubilee Tattoo at Aldershot, in aid of military charitable funds.*

June 27—*Sir Harold MacMichael, the Governor of Tanganyika Territory, will address the East African Group of the Overseas League at Vernon House, Park Place, St. James Street, London, S.W.1.*

Dominion Day Celebrations

Preparations for the celebration of Dominion Day in London under the auspices of the High Commissioner of Canada and Mrs. Howard Ferguson will shortly be proceeding.

The customary reception will be held at Canada House, when visitors from the Dominion, Canadian residents in London, and many distinguished guests will be present.

The Annual Dominion Day Dinner will take place at Grosvenor House on 1st July.

East Africa During the King's Reign

By F. S. Joelson,
Founder and Editor of "East Africa."

DURING the King's reign probably no part of the Colonial Empire has emerged more swiftly than East Africa from darkness to light, from unapproachability to accessibility, from primitive conditions to modern standards, from obscurity to a blaze—sometimes too great a blaze—of publicity.

As a result of the War, what was German East Africa is to-day Tanganyika Territory, and will, it is greatly to be hoped, soon be part of the British East African Union which Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika naturally form, and which they should be encouraged to create for economic, administrative, financial, Customs, and Imperial purposes.

The institution of regular air mail services twice weekly in each direction between Eastern Africa and the Mother Country has done more than any other single thing in recent years to promote the progress of territories of great natural potentialities. To-day they are within five days of London; in little more than twelve months that time will be cut in half, and there will be three services a week.

Since important towns and mining and agricultural areas which not long ago were a month's journey from the capital of the Empire are now regularly reached in a sixth of the time, leading business men and technical specialists can and do frequently examine propositions which they could previously not spare the time to investigate personally.

The air service has, indeed, been a prime factor in the recent rapid development of East African gold mining; it has made the East African goldfields the most accessible in the Empire, with the consequence that they have attracted British capital and the attention of the public and of some of the most skilled mining managements in the world.

Since His Majesty's accession East Africa can claim, despite the War and the subsequent slump, to have made great progress in crop production, both European and Native; in mining, especially of copper, gold and tin; in general trade (though while the Congo Basin Treaties exist Great Britain is handicapped and Japan is advantaged); in the provision of transport facilities of all kinds, including roads, railways, harbours, and aerodromes, and in the provision of medical, agricultural, educational, veterinary, and other essential public services.

That the territories have become so much better known is in no small degree a direct result of the interest of the Royal House.

The Prince of Wales has visited East Africa and Southern Rhodesia twice and Northern Rhodesia once; the Duke and Duchess of York have visited Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar; the Duke of Gloucester has shot in Tanganyika, Kenya, and Northern Rhodesia; the Duke of Kent has visited both Rhodesias; and the Duke of Connaught, Prince Arthur of Connaught, Princess Alice, the Earl of Athlone, and Princess Marie Louise have all visited different parts of British East and Central Africa.

Sentimental Journeys

THE homing instinct of migratory birds is not fully understood by the scientists and the homing instinct of man is an equal mystery.

It is one of the influences which has brought thousands of people from all the Dominions to England for the King's Jubilee and it brought them also in the war, for it is a force, generally half dormant, which becomes active at any moment of national excitement. It also does not allow people to be satisfied merely with England as a whole, but sends them off to find their own particular neighbourhood, the actual place where their ancestors had lived.

For some, such as Mr. Patrick Duncan, the South African Minister of Mines, or Mr. Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, who did not leave this country till they were full grown, the interest in old friends and places is, of course, not surprising.

Others who have lived here for long periods, such as Sir Henry Gullett, the Australian Minister for Trade Treaties, who came over during the war and was subsequently High Commissioner, or Mr. Coates, the New Zealand Finance Minister, whose cousin still lives at the old home near Leominster, have very tangible connections in this country.

There are thousands of Overseas people, however, some who are here officially and others merely for a private trip, who are moved only by what might be called inherited memories.

Absorbed in the life of their Dominion, they have had no personal touch with the British Isles, except perhaps some old stories their grandmothers told them. Yet when they reach this country their interest quickens at the idea of their own place of origin.

In spite of all that is on in London Mr. and Mrs. Lyons have found time to visit Ireland and the West Country, and their example is being followed by many of those who came with them for the meat negotiations.

Mr. Butler, the Premier of South Australia, is going to Oxford, not merely as a tourist, but to pick up the links with his father's people.

The English have less horror than the French of being *déraciné*; still this desire for roots is the reason why England is called the Motherland throughout the Empire.



A South African Orange Grove

Union Orange Growers Face Ruin

THERE are bitter complaints from South African orange growers over what they allege to be unfair treatment meted out to them by the distributors in Britain, and on the face of it this important section of the South African community seems to have some cause for complaint.

Notwithstanding preference of 3/6 per cwt. for British Empire oranges, the markets have been flooded with fruit from foreign sources, and more especially from Brazil.

It is stated that these foreign oranges are sold by the distributing agents at prices which averaged considerably higher than Empire grown fruit, although they were retailed to the public at an average lower rate.

This is, in itself, an absolute paradox, and suggests that outside pressure has made itself felt on the market to nullify the effects of the Ottawa Conference at which the preference for British Empire oranges was obtained.

Although 2,821,317 cases were exported from the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia last year—an increase of nearly 200,000 on 1933—prices were the lowest on record, and at the moment there seems to be no improvement in what is really a serious situation.

South Africa grows and exports a better orange than Spain and as good as California, yet these two countries, with Brazil, shipped over 3,300,000 cases to the United Kingdom last year.

There are many retired Government service men who put their savings into South African orange orchards, and who are faced with ruin unless something is done to protect them and give them some return, however small, on their capital.

The dumping of foreign oranges

should be stopped. Australia and South Africa can supply Britain with all the oranges we require. An inquiry into the most profitable method of marketing might also prove interesting.

Empire Students in London

FOUNDED as a centre of collegiate life in London for British Dominion and Colonial men undergraduates and post-graduates of white parentage, London House is rapidly becoming an important link between the educational life of England and the Empire.

Now, the residential accommodation is to be enlarged, and fresh endowments are needed. The Carnegie Corporation has promised £20,000 providing that £80,000 is raised from other sources.

The ultimate plan is to erect a fine, modern building to be a residential college, with dining hall and library.

At present, 57 men are in residence, from all parts of the Empire, for the unrivalled opportunities for study which London can offer—the University, the hospitals, the British Museum, and the legal institutions.

London House is run so as to be, as far as possible, self-supporting. The students pay about two guineas a week, and each has a well-furnished bed-sitting room, with hot and cold water laid on. There is one bathroom to every four men. Catering is similar to that of a naval or military officers' mess, but there are few rules and regulations.

Miniature Imperial Conferences are held every day in the common rooms—Canada discusses tariffs with New Zealand, and South Africa chats on fruit farming with Australia.

As a centre to inspire the intellectual youth of the Empire with their common heritage, London House is working wonders.

FORGOTTEN DEEDS OF THE EMPIRE

V.—*The Buccaneers and Logwood Cutters of Honduras.*

By Professor A. P. Newton.

AMONG all the British colonies in every quarter of the globe none has had a stranger early history than the Colony of British Honduras. With the exception of the Dominion of Canada it is the only portion of the continent of North America which now owes allegiance to the ruler of a European state, though it lies in the heart of a region that was for centuries a part of the Spanish Empire. All the surrounding territories threw off their connection with Spain in the early years of the nineteenth century and became independent Latin-American republics, so that Belize, as it used to be called, is bounded by the Spanish-speaking states of Honduras and Guatemala. But the territory of the colony is wholly British in its character and outlook, and there is no admixture of Spanish blood or culture.

We owe this not to any feat of conquest but to the persistent and determined efforts of successive generations of poor and nameless Englishmen who stuck to their intention to found a settlement without Government help and in fact often in the face of coldness and disapproval from the authorities.

route across the Isthmus of Panama, he found close and most helpful allies in the Indian tribes of the region, and his name and friendship were long remembered and made Englishmen more welcome among the aborigines than any other Europeans. The most inveterate enemies were the Spaniards among the tribes were the Mosquito Indians who dwelt along the coast of Nicaragua, and for centuries they gave shelter and assistance to any English sailors who touched upon the coast.

This made the Mosquito Coast an important base for the privateers who, after the Elizabethan war was over, continued to prey upon Spanish commerce in the West Indies. From the fact that they often provisioned their ships with *boucan* or dried meat, which they and their Indian allies made from the wild cattle they hunted in the woods, they came to be known as "buccaneers." For a century or more they raided and plundered the Spanish colonists in every part of the Caribbean, and retired to share their booty in out-of-the-way and hidden creeks, especially behind the cays and shallows which fringe the unoccupied shore of Honduras.

The most celebrated of these buccaneers was Captain Henry Morgan whose famous exploit of the capture

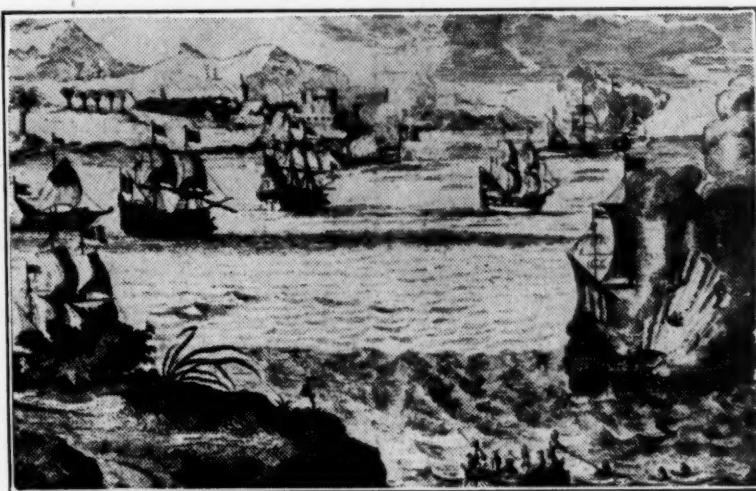


Sir Henry Morgan, the buccaneer. Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica, and harrier of the Spanish in West Indies

Governor, but his old associates had to find some new and less predatory way of making a living without the patronage he secured.

The forests of Central America gave valuable woods which yielded a red dye much in demand in Europe. They were generally grouped together as "logwood," and the old buccaneers set to work to cut and ship this logwood from the creeks and rivers they had always frequented. One of the best sources was the River Belize, variant of the name of the buccaneer Wallis, who had made it his base. It was far from any Spanish settlement and difficult of approach by any hostile force. There the logwood cutters in the first half of the eighteenth century founded a rough settlement, managed by themselves and without any government but what they organised according to their own rough notions of justice.

The Spaniards tried to drive them out, but they returned again and again, and ultimately Admiral Bumby, commanding the West Indian naval station, gave them official recognition and a code of laws to govern Belize and the Mosquito Coast. Finally Spain, after being beaten by the settlers at St. George's Cay during the war of the American Revolution, had to acknowledge Britain's effective possession of Belize and the neighbouring territory, and so the Colony of British Honduras began its settled and fully organised life.



Captain Morgan destroying the Spanish Fleet. In 1670 Morgan was given a roving commission to levy war on all Spanish ships and seize booty

The colony is one of the closest links with Drake and the Elizabethan corsairs, for it was their direct successors, the buccaneers of the days of Charles II., who first began settlements on the coast of Honduras, and there has never been any long continued break in the story of the region, despite all the efforts of the Spaniards to drive the English intruders out.

When Drake was making his famous raids upon the Spanish treasure-

and sack of Panama in the reign of Charles II. was long remembered with horror by the Spaniards. But as time went on, the governors of the English colonies were compelled by the Government in London to cease their countenance of the buccaneers' plundering, for it cut across their policy of encouraging legitimate trade with the Spanish colonies. Morgan settled down in Jamaica as a wealthy and knighted Lieutenant-

Empire Summer School at Oxford

By G. Delop Stevenson.

IT is very difficult to get a bird's eye view of the Empire, for scattered all over the earth, it reflects the complexity and diversity of the whole world.

It is never the less very important that as many as possible of the King's subjects should have a general idea of the main Imperial problems. From Rhodes to Mr. Lyons, at a recent dinner, the cry has always been for more knowl-

ledge, and the spread of knowledge is one of the principal functions of the patriotic societies.

The Empire Summer Schools at Oxford, organised by the Royal Empire Society, are a stimulating and pleasant way of getting information across. This is the third year in which one is being held. It is to last for a fortnight, from July 18 to 27, though students can enrol for only one week if they like.

As in former years, the most important subjects of the moment are being treated by experts. There will be an address on The King by Sir Walter Lawrence. Naval defence and air development are being dealt with by Admiral Sir Howard Kelly, Air Commodore J. A. Chamier and Mr. Handley Page.

Dr. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade, will talk on World Trade Conditions, Sir Edward Grigg on Agriculture and Sir Alan Anderson on Shipping. Mr. Amery will speak on "What the Empire Means," Lord Amulree on Newfoundland, the Earl of Plymouth on West Africa and Lord Bledisloe on New Zealand. Mrs. Alfred Watt, the R.E.S.' Canadian founder, will talk about women's institutes.

Arrangements are being made for the students to stay at various colleges, though the centre of the school is appropriately Rhodes House. Besides listening to lectures there are to be excursions and garden parties. So far about a hundred students have enrolled, the greater proportion from Overseas.

On Circuit in Tanganyika

By W. L. Speight.

THE Eurasian guard in workman-like khaki uniform blew his whistle and waved his flag. The Lancashire engine driver set his khaki sun helmet more firmly upon his head, opened the neck of his washed-out overalls, and glared through his smoke glasses at his negro fireman. "Coom, coom," he cried. "Poot more wood in fire. Ah can't get steam oop."

It was only a moment later, however, that the big engine started to move. To the hiss of escaping steam, the little crowd on the gravelled platform of Dar-es-Salaam station waved farewell to the judge and his staff and gaily wished him a cool passage.

The noise of the natives crowded into the carriages just behind the engine was shrill and prolonged.

The train was provided with a dining car run by a Greek caterer, but the judge was not dependent upon its service, for his coach was a self-contained unit, with at the back its own kitchen, in which even live poultry was carried in special crates.

Among the few travellers in the European carriages were Government officials with their families, planters of various nationalities, a slight sprinkling of business men,

Imperial Opinions

"In the new Constitution for India so much greater are the powers and responsibilities vested in the Governor-General and the Governors that the question of personal staffs becomes of transcending importance. The Viceroy and the Governors of the future will clearly need officers of higher standing than the average Private Secretary of to-day." — *Statesman* (Calcutta).

"Sir Hubert Young has an energetic and forceful personality, and believes in getting things done." — *The Hon. L. F. Moore, M.L.C., interviewed in Salisbury.*

"Whatever the merits or demerits of secession may be, there are a great many grievances, and severe grievances, under which Western Australia suffers, and which ought to be corrected. There is no state in any part of His Majesty's Dominions that is more loyal to the King, that is more loyal to the Old Country, and has a greater regard for the unity of the British race, than have the people of Western Australia." — *Sir William Campion (seven years Governor of Western Australia).*

mining engineers going all the way to Belgian Congo and a Catholic Missionary from Morogoro or further up the line.

Heat expressed itself most violently. It seemed a material force which squeezed between the opening of a badly fitting blind. Through such openings, too, came the dust, which settled on every part of the interior, adding to the misery of the perspiring travellers.

These discomforts of railway travel in East Africa had less effect upon the natives, who were mostly dressed in white Swahili kanzus, although a few affected the khaki tunic and shorts worn by most of the Europeans. The Indian traders to a man wore clothes which were a mingling of Eastern and Western styles.

In due time the rattle of the train drew to a stop. It was time to replenish the supplies of fuel in the tender, for wood burns so much more rapidly than coal. Heads popped out of the carriage windows, to watch the brawny labourers tossing up the heavy pieces of wood, which were deftly arranged in the tender. The clonk, clonk, clonk of falling timber resounded the whole length of the train, beating rawly upon the already strained nerves.

But it was a noise to which the traveller in this part of East Africa must accustom himself, for it sur-

prises one day and night, wherever, it seems, one of those towering piles of wood have been gathered at the side of the track.

During this halt the Lancashire driver recalled being employed as a driver during the war, mentioning that the South African troops had a failing for riding on the roofs of the carriages, until they changed colour under the sooty smoke from the engine. Reminders of that war which now seems in the long ago are to be seen at points along the line.

When the train climbs the Pugu Hills, taking one over high embankments and through rocky defiles, with musical mountain streams tumbling down, one comes at last to the bridge which the Germans dynamited. Looking down from the bridge which has replaced it, one sees the rusted remains of the locomotives and rolling stock which they drove into the wreckage—yet another monument to the waste of war.

Meals under Difficulties

All through the steaming afternoon the hellish noise of the train continues, with the motion so uncertain that feeding is no easy process. In the judge's private coach the native servant unfolds the table, and in no time it is covered with a white cloth and the various appointments arranged. If the train is not moving, the meal proceeds smoothly, from the curried fowl to the walnuts, but if the coach should suddenly jerk forward then the various articles on the table must be watched. Soup or tea slops over the side of the plate or cup. Slices of bread slide across the table. A dish or two clear the edge and shatter on the floor.

In the dining saloon similar sufferings are endured. The hunter about to drink his sundowner succeeds in bathing his chin in whisky and soda, and the planter at the opposite table cannot quite manage his soup. Yet, in spite of such difficulties, the meal proceeds merrily on its way.

Acres of sisal and derelict rubber plantations pass as the train meanders on its way to such pleasant places as Ruvu and Ngere-Ngere.

The pretty square white stations, with red tiled roofs, are in the care of Indian stationmasters, excitable men yet efficient. We see them as serious, worried men, expostulating with the guard or walking with hurried steps down the wide red ash platform. But duly all troubles are smoothed away. The stationmaster smiles, the guard blows his whistle, waves his flag and once again the train goes jogging on its way.

At Morogoro comes the first stop on the judge's circuit. By the time the train screeches to a stop there, it is pitch dark night, and the judge is so drowsy that he cannot even notice the lights of the place. But he cannot close his ears to the piercing whistle of the locomotive. All is set for the first case.

CINEMA**RE-ENTER NAT GOULD**By **Mark Forrest**

THE American campaign for cleansing the screen is having the most exhilarating effects. Not only is the amount of bosom which may be exposed a source of great tribulation, but the stories apparently are being overhauled so that only the simplest emotions should be exploited. Vice must be punished and virtue have its reward apportioned according to its use; a formula which appealed to our grandparents and to their grandparents before them. Whether the heroine will really be happy with the hero, who is generally a prig, is a question which should not be asked; she ought to be, and that's the end of the matter. Whether the villains of this world actually finish their lives with their heads in nooses or with their wrists in handcuffs is another question not to be invited; they ought to do so.

This is apparently the new Hollywood recipe, and the forerunner of the new culture is, of all people, Mae West, who has arrived at the Carlton in her new picture, *Goin' to Town*.

The Girl and the Peer

Nat Gould has not been dead a very long time, but I thought, until I saw Mae West's picture, that his stories were definitely moribund. However, one of his favourite plots, duly Americanised, forms the basis of the film. The girl on the ranch falls in love with a peer and she also owns a racehorse. She comes to Buenos Aires for the great race, and the villainess, who leads society there and owns another racehorse, employs the villain to "nobble" Mae West's. He fails, so she gives her jockey some last-minute instructions, but he doesn't succeed in riding Mae West's over the rails, and the little girl from the ranch duly wins the race and most of the money belonging to the villainess; but not the peer. In order to capture him she goes into society, and the villainess tries to "nobble" society, but the girl from the ranch marries her nephew, just for the sake of his name, and outwits her again. He is shot, the villain is arrested, the villainess is "drummed out" of Boston, or wherever the Mayflower is moored, and the little girl from the ranch marries the peer. Vice is, therefore, suitably punished and, as the peer announces himself to his bride as "her husband, the Earl of Stratton," virtue, I feel, has nothing more to gain than his lordship.

The adjective, "little," is hardly applicable to Mae West, and indeed she is something new in simple heroines for, despite the embargo on vulgarity, she manages to endow the girl from the ranch with more than her fair share of it. I recommend all those people who enjoyed *Young England* to go and have some more simple fun at the expense of the New Hollywood.

ACADEMY CINEMA, Oxford St. Ger. 2981

Yvonne Printemps

in her first film

"LA DAME AUX CAMELIAS" (A)

with Pierre Fresnay

BROADCASTING**ADVICE TO MR. CECIL GRAVES**By **Alan Howland**

THE new Programme Chief of the B.B.C. has my profound sympathy. When he takes over his job later on in the year he will be overwhelmed with advice, battered into insensibility with criticism and at the same time he will find himself struggling vainly against the Hydra-headed tentacles of B.B.C. red tape. I am going to step in first with some advice; later on I may find it necessary to criticise, and in any case I wish him joy of the red tape.

I should like, first of all, to remind Mr. Cecil Graves that, although he will have to breathe the rarified atmosphere which in this country surrounds the Broadcasting Immortals, he will still be a servant of the public. It will be his duty to give that public what it is paying for and not what Sir John Reith chooses to think is good for it. He will, if he is wise, pay more attention to the discriminating criticism of the well-informed than to the hysterical adulation of pot-hunters and self-seekers.

If he does so he will soon realise that, despite eulogistic letters from "Mother of Five" and "Satisfied Listener," despite the mutual back-slapping which takes place every day in the B.B.C. Annexe in Chandos Street, W.1, despite the fact that the number of licence-holders is increasing, nevertheless all is not right with the B.B.C. programmes. He may even discover, as others have discovered before him, that a large percentage of the programmes are uncompromisingly and undeniably bad.

Experts Wanted

The first step which I should advise him to take is to overhaul his staff. I am all for amateurs in sport, but the days when broadcasting was merely an exciting game are now over. Producers, lyric-writers, musicians, organisers of variety performances, announcers and the like cannot be entirely recruited from the ranks of the hitherto unemployed "pukka sahibs," nor is there any reason why unledged amateurs should learn their jobs at the expense of the British public, even if they are socially awfully nice to know. The work must be done by competent people who have had experience in one or other of the artistic professions and who will for their services receive adequate salaries.

All this Mr. Graves will no doubt discover, if he does not know it already. The question is, will he do something about it? Will he insist on being surrounded by a competent staff, irrespective of their social standing, their financial stability or their reputation for being Bright Boys? I sincerely hope he will, since otherwise we are in for a further spell of futility.

His position will be difficult, for he has to please both the public and Sir John Reith—in my opinion an impossibility.

Share Introductions—Reform Needed

(By Our City Editor)

THE Stock Exchange Committee has accomplished much useful reform since the halcyon new issue days of 1929, and the majority of the propositions put before the public as invitations to subscribe new capital are, at any rate, genuine, though they may be, and often are, highly speculative. But reform is still urgently needed in one direction, and that is in the case of permission to deal in the shares of a company after the publication in the Press of particulars relating to its finances and business. In most cases the Committee only grants permission to deal if the shares are those of a business which is already on an established profit-earning basis, but the "introduction" of a share to the market is bound to be somewhat surreptitious so far as the general public is concerned, for only the Stock Exchange man is aware when and at what price a market in the shares "introduced" commences.

We have had one or two examples recently of "introduced" shares which have provided spectacular profits for those in the market and which have been left in the hands of the public at over-valued prices. It is true that the investor who speculates must expect to run such a risk, but it seems hardly fair that the investing public should only have the opportunity of taking up a share when it has been hoisted to an impossible price by inside market men. We have a recent example in the case of Marsman Investments. The 10s. shares were, we believe, sold to jobbers at 12s., a market was started in them at 14s., and within a few days the price had risen to 27s.—almost before the public had heard that such a share existed. Actually, the venture appears to be a prosperous one, with holdings in a company which in turn holds controlling interests in gold-mining and other properties in the Phillipines. But the market itself knows little about the shares except that they have been in short supply and provided a good opportunity for a gamble. This is not encouraging to the ordinary investor, on whom, in the long run, the Stock Exchange depends for support.

A High-Yielding Preference

The accounts of Richard Thomas & Co., the big South Wales steel and tinplate manufacturers, show a most satisfactory recovery in the company's fortunes, and, with profits £160,000 up at £635,000,

the board is able, following upon the scheme for clearing off the preference arrears, to resume ordinary dividends with a payment of 6 per cent. The net profit of £429,000 means that the £202,823 dividend payment on the 6½ per cent. tax-free preference shares was more than twice covered, and the return on these shares in the light of the earnings for last year appears most attractive. The dividend is tax-free up to 6s., and the shares have not moved appreciably for some time, the price being around 27s. 6d.—28s. At 27s. 9d. the yield is over 6 per cent. gross or £4 14s. 6d. net, a very much better return than is available on ordinary shares in the Iron, Coal and Steel group.

COMPANY MEETING

BEECHAMS PILLS LTD.

CONTINUED PROGRESS

The seventh ordinary general meeting of Beechams Pills Ltd., was held on May 30th at the Hotel Metropole, London, W.C.

Mr. Philip E. Hill, chairman, said: The accounts that you are asked to approve to-day express the steady progress which your company continues to make. The profits for the year just ended amounted to £287,583, as compared with £264,848 in the previous year and £248,031 in the year before that. During the past three years we have through our subsidiaries acquired several established businesses, all of which are showing better results than at the time of acquisition, and are, in our opinion, capable of further expansion. The new lines which I referred to last year are progressing satisfactorily. All expenditure to date in connection with their development has been written off, so that, when they reach the profit-making stage, there will not only be a sum available for additional dividends, but we shall possess in each case an asset of considerable capital value.

Our factory at St. Helen's, where the famous pills are made, was built in 1898. It is now being extended and rebuilt, and we believe that when the extensions and alterations are completed in August next, we shall have a building which, as regards lay-out and hygiene, will compare with any similar factory in the world.

We have also six other factories in this country where the products of our subsidiary companies are made, our policy being to preserve these as separate independent entities.

Mr. Louis Nicholas, vice-chairman, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and the staff of the company and its subsidiaries both at home and abroad.

**NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE Co., Ltd.** Total Assets £50,890,000 Total Income exceeds £10,476,000
LONDON: 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2 EDINBURGH: 64, Princes Street

The Tin Quota

It is generally expected that the International Tin Committee at next week's meeting will decide upon an increase of 10 per cent. in the production quota for the ensuing quarter. The situation has, however, been complicated by the deterioration in the American situation for any "code," and labour trouble would mean a lower U.S. demand for Tin. On the present basis a 10 per cent. quota increase would still leave demand in excess of supply, but it would be a tragedy for the scheme if the Committee were to over estimate demand and have to make a reduction in the quota later on in the year, for it will not be long before the extension of the Tin restriction scheme comes under consideration. So far the Buffer stock is believed to have sold on balance practically nothing at all, despite the shortage of some brands of Tin. Surely this stock was not set up to be gazed at! If the Tin Committee keeps a tight hold on production by making a minimum increase in the quota, then the Buffer stock must be prepared to ease the position at any time there is a stringency. If not, then it is hardly too much to say that the Buffer stock will be directly responsible for the breakdown of the Restriction Scheme.

Ever Ready Meeting

Mr. Magnus Goodfellow, Chairman of the Ever Ready (Great Britain) Company, did much to dispose of any misgivings that might have existed as regards certain aspects of the past year's progress at the meeting of the company this week. He spoke frankly of the loss made by Lissen, Ltd., in which Ever Ready is largely interested, and said that while they anticipated better things in the future, they would, if this asset proved to be over-valued, write it down in accordance with their usual conservative policy. Litigation against the company, to which undue attention was given in some quarters, has been satisfactorily settled, and the company's trading in the past year was most satisfactory, while sales to date, the Chairman mentioned, again showed an advance over those for the corresponding period of the previous year. He considered that they had never been better equipped to meet competition than they were to-day.

Beechams Pills

At the meeting of Beechams Pills, Ltd., Mr. Philip Hill, the Chairman, had to report increased profits at £287,533 compared with £264,343 in the previous year, and he mentioned that acquisitions had been made through their subsidiaries of established businesses capable of further expansion. Expenditure in connection with the development of new lines had been written off, so that when they reached the profit-earning stage there would not only be a sum available for dividends, but also a substantial capital asset.

Ottoman Railway Sale

The sale of the Ottoman Railway, a British-owned line, to the Turkish Government for the £1,825,840, payable in 40-year Turkish bonds, will represent another big sacrifice to British investors, for the £994,000 of ordinary shareholders appear likely to receive, at best, only £7 10s. per £100 of their capital back, and they will have to wait a long time for that. The directors have obviously done their best to secure a fair offer, but they are handicapped by the fact that the Turkish Government is building a competing line, and their railway will shortly not be able to earn anything at all. It is difficult to see how British investors can be expected to risk their money abroad without adequate Government protection.

If your friends find difficulty in obtaining the "Saturday Review" from their news-agents, ask them to send a postcard to The Publisher, "Saturday Review," 18-20 York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.2.

COMPANY MEETING**THE EVER READY COMPANY**

(GREAT BRITAIN) LTD.

SALES ADVANCE**LITIGATION SATISFACTORILY SETTLED****MR. MAGNUS GOODFELLOW ON GRATIFYING RESULTS**

The ordinary annual general meeting of The Ever Ready Company (Great Britain), Ltd., was held on Monday, the 3rd June, at the "Ever Ready" Works, Hercules Place, Holloway, N.7. Mr. Magnus Goodfellow (Chairman and Managing Director of the Company) presided, supported by Mr. C. H. Dade, Mr. F. S. Johnson, Mr. W. T. Walker, F.C.A., and Mr. C. O. Stanley.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen—I have pleasure in submitting the directors' report and statements of accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1935, and I presume we may follow the usual custom and take them as read, together with the minutes of the last annual meeting. You have no doubt carefully considered the report and accounts, and the results of the year's trading must be as gratifying to you as they are to your directors. They were obtained in the face of many difficulties, by hard and incessant work in production and selling.

On the production side many improvements were again effected, and our report informs you that, while benefits were obtained during the year under review, greater benefits should accrue to the business in future years.

On the selling side, consumers have demanded our goods in greater quantities than ever before, and the retail and wholesale trades have loyally supported us in distribution. We are in a position to know that the business we have built up through the years has benefited, not only the shareholders, directors, and workpeople concerned therein, but our consumers and friends in the distributing trades.

In establishing the special trading reserve of £60,000 referred to in our report to you, we show clearly our intention to continue energetically to foster the consumption of our goods in the homes of the people.

Overseas Development

We have co-operated with the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation of the United States in the formation of the International Eveready Company, Limited, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling our goods in many countries overseas. Progress has been made; profits have been received during the year, and we look forward to the development of these businesses.

The Continental companies have not contributed to the profits of the year, by reason of restrictions and Exchange difficulties. Their trading position is strong, and we can fairly hope that we shall obtain the benefits to which our work entitles us in the not too distant future.

The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts of Lissen, Limited, were issued to the Shareholders of that Company on the 17th May, 1935, and copies are available to you. The report makes clear the difficulties we have encountered in this business, and the accounts show that not only have the sales and profits of the fifteen months to the 31st March, 1935, fallen heavily, but that the debts created in the previous year by large sales under easy payment agreements in November and December, 1933, have been found to be to a large extent uncollectable, and the Directors have deemed it necessary to

write off the debts still outstanding to the amount of £66,181. The other writings off are clearly expressed, and the business goes forward on a good liquid asset basis. I cannot do better than quote from the Lissen Directors' Report the following statement:

"Reorganisation work has been carried on, great improvements have been made in the quality and finish of the Company's goods, and substantial operating economies have been effected, so that to-day prospects for the coming year are much improved."

Lissen Improvements

Our Company's holding in Lissen, Limited, is 420,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, fully paid, at a total cost of £742,000, and it must be clear to you that, had your Directors considered this money lost, they would have written off the whole amount out of the accumulated reserves of your Company. It is obvious that, with the wholesale changes we were compelled to make in the management and organisation of this business, it had necessarily to pass through a transitional period, and, in your Directors' view, it would be short-sighted to value this asset permanently on a transitional basis. We anticipate that Lissen, Limited, will show improved trading results in the future, and there is one thing on which you may rely—if it appears later that this asset is over-valued, your Directors will at once write it down, in accordance with the conservative financial policy we have always pursued.

On May 27, 1935, we issued a report to you on the subject of the action brought by T. H. Cole against the Company and others to set aside the undertaking given by him in June, 1933. The plaintiff's advisers approached us for a settlement, and offered to pay our costs, and we agreed to settle the action on the terms already in your hands, acting in the best interests of the shareholders and the business generally.

This, then, was the "pending litigation" that was so noisomely bruited abroad.

Turning to the accounts, you will have observed that the profit for the year has risen by £52,500 to £449,000. The dividends recommended absorb £312,000, benevolent fund, balance of taxation, etc., some £20,000, and the balance of £117,000 augments the reserves and carry forward.

There are increases in plant, machinery, etc., £83,000; subsidiary companies, £109,000; trade investments, £44,000, and stock-in-trade some £28,000. We sold our holdings in British Government securities towards the end of the year, and cash at £368,800 shows an increase over the combined cash and British Government securities of a year ago of some £57,000. These items total £321,000.

On the other hand, sundry debtors and debit balances are lower by £66,000, and sundry creditors have increased by £80,000, due almost entirely to the expenditure on the new plant referred to in our report, and which had not been paid for at the date of the accounts.

These movements show that some £200,000 of capital expenditure was provided during the year from our own resources and without depleting our liquid funds. Stock is well bought, and our purchasing arrangements ensure that no substantial increase in the costs of our material is to be apprehended during the coming year.

Increased Sales

The results shown by the accounts have been achieved in the face of the competition to which we are by popular rumour so peculiarly vulnerable—of course we are vulnerable to competition—every business is—and your Company has had to meet intense competition in various shapes and forms since the first day of its formation, and will probably have to go on doing so right into the far future. One cannot say that no competition can do us

any harm, but I will say that, in the whole course of your Company's history, our interests have never been so widely spread nor have we ever been better equipped profitably to combat competition than we are to-day.

I express our warm thanks to the managers, executive staff and workpeople, who have all contributed their part to the successful year's working.

In conclusion, may I again urge that you will continue to support your Company by insisting on Ever Ready and Lissen when buying any of the numerous products we manufacture?

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. C. H. Dade seconded the resolution, and it was adopted.

The payment of the dividends recommended was approved, and the retiring directors, Mr. A. H. Sheppard and Mr. C. O. Stanley, were re-elected.

The report and accounts were adopted, and payment of the dividends recommended was approved.

At an extraordinary meeting following, resolutions were passed converting the issued Preference and Ordinary share capital into stock.

GRAMOPHONE NOTES

GOD SAVE THE KING

By Shanty

WE would recommend to the attention of all our readers the Jubilee Souvenir Record (H.M.V. RC 2747) released this month.

It reproduces on one side with flawless fidelity the inspiring broadcast made by the King to the peoples of his Empire on the evening of the Jubilee celebrations. Never before has a monarch's voice reached the ears of so many millions of his subjects, never has a speech been received with deeper appreciation and affection and never has a great Ruler spoken with such touching simplicity and so deep a comprehension of his hearers' personal loyalty. The Sovereign spoke to the humblest of his subjects as it were face to face and the emotion in his voice, which sounded as though he could scarcely believe that he had so conquered his country's love, found an answer in those who listened.

The other side of this record preserves for all time a memorial of the loyalty of this country to the King and Queen. The cheers that greeted their Majesties on their triumphal progress from Temple Bar to St. Paul's are here recorded for future generations. The full-throated roar of applause, as an expression of genuine feeling, is a rarity particularly in self-possessed London and the historian will find in its registration incontrovertible evidence of English patriotism at a time when the country's leaders mouthed pacifism and surrender.

The profits of this record are being devoted to charities nominated by His Majesty and the record itself should be the prized possession of every school in the country. It is no small thing that the rising generation should be able to study a concrete example of history in the making and at the same time learn the lesson of patriotism and loyalty which have made this country what it is.

The price of the record is four shillings.